

QQ Sweeper

The cover art features a romantic anime-style illustration of a young man and woman in a close embrace, nearly kissing. The man has dark hair and is wearing a dark blue jacket, while the woman has long, flowing blonde hair and is wearing a white sailor-style top with a blue collar. The background is a soft, dreamy mix of light blue and pink with sparkling effects. The title 'QQ Sweeper' is written in a large, stylized pink font at the top, and the volume number '3' is in a white circle on the left.

3

Story & Art by KYOUSUKE MOTOMI

QQ Sweeper



3

Story & Art by KYOUSUKE MOTOMI



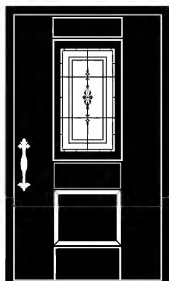
QQ Sweeper

3

Sweep 11 — 3

Sweep 12 — 39

Sweep 13 — 75



Sweep 14 — 113

Sweep 15 — 149



SWEEP 11

AFTER
ALL THIS
TIME...

...I'VE
FINALLY
FOUND
YOU.

TH-
THMP.



Hello, everyone!
Kyouzuke Motomi here.

Thank you for picking up
volume 3 of QQ Sweeper.
Actually, this is the final
volume of this story.
I really hope you read
it right to the end!



KYUTARO
...?

YOU'RE
FUYU.



THE
ONLY
GIRL
IN MY
HEART...

YOU WERE
ALWAYS SO
PRECIOUS
TO ME.

I'VE BEEN
DESPERATE
TO SEE YOU
FOR SO LONG.



MAYBE
YOU'VE
FORGOTTEN,
BUT I
HAVEN'T.

TH-
THMP
TRY TO
REMEMBER.

TH-
THMP
PLEASE TRY TO
REMEMBER...!!

FU-

TH-
THMP
YOU
ARE...



NO!
DON'T
SAY IT.

GRIT

WE HAVE
NO IDEA.

WHY
DOESN'T SHE
REMEMBER
ANYTHING?

WHY IS SHE
"CURSED"?

WHAT
WOULD
IT DO TO
HER?



CLENCH

WITH THINGS
THE WAY
THEY ARE,
WOULD I
BE ABLE TO
TAKE CARE
OF HER?

SHE MIGHT
BE HORRIBLY
CONFUSED IF
HER MEMORY
CAME BACK.

WHAT IF
THOSE
THINGS ARE
CONNECTED
SOMEHOW?



...I
CAN'T
RISK
IT...

...NO
MATTER
HOW
BADLY
I WANT
TO TELL
HER.

IF
THERE'S
EVEN THE
TINIEST
CHANCE
OF IT
HURTING
HER...

THIS IS
KINDA
AWK-
WARD.

HUH?
?

UM...
SORRY.

I DIDN'T
MEAN
ANY-
THING
BY THIS.

OH...

I
DREAMED
I WAS AT
SCHOOL,
AND
EVERYONE
WAS
PAIRING
OFF TO
WORK.

BUT
YOU'RE ALL
SWEATY
AND
SHIVERING
...

DON'T
GIVE ME
THAT
PITYING
LOOK.
I'm
used
to it.

IT IS
THE
MIDDLE
OF THE
NIGHT...

O-OH!
THAT
MAKES
SENSE!

I JUST
FELT SO
SLEEPY
ALL OF A
SUDDEN.

SORRY
FOR COL-
LAPSING
ON YOU.

WIZARD





ALL
RIGHT.

GOOD
NIGHT.

GOOD
NIGHT.

FORGET
I SAID
THAT.

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.

K-CHAK

PLEASE...

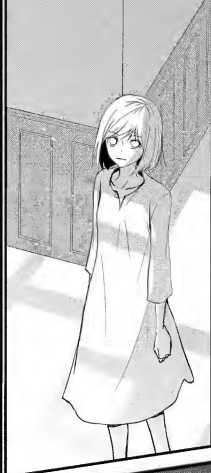
I
WON'T
ASK
FOR
ANY-
THING
ELSE.

...DON'T
GO.



IF YOU
STAYED...

...I
WOULDN'T
NEED
ANYTHING
ELSE.



I'D HAVE TO BE
A COMPLETE
IDIOT TO ASK
FOR MORE.

IT'D BE THE
BIGGEST THING I
COULD POSSIBLY
HOPE FOR.





I HAVE A
FORMAL
REQUEST
TO MAKE
OF YOU!



I, FUMI
NISHIOKA...

...WANT
VERY BADLY
TO CONTINUE
HERE AS A
HOUSEKEEPER
AND SWEEPER
TRAINEE.

I BEG YOUR
INDULGENCE!



Come on,
up. You
don't want
your butt
getting cold.

OF
COURSE
YOU CAN
STAY!

THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!

YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
BE SO
FORMAL
WITH
US.

I'LL
WORK MY
FINGERS
TO THE
BONE!



HEH HEH.
NOW,
FUMI,
DEAR...

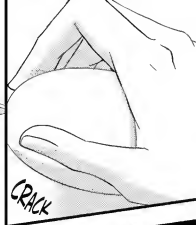
WHUMP

I KNOW
I CAN BE
STUPID, AND
MY SELF-
ISHNESS
CAUSED
PROBLEMS
FOR YOU...

...BUT I
SWEAR
I'LL WORK
AS HARD
AS AN OX.

P-PLEASE
GET UP!







IF YOU'RE BORED, THEN GIVE ME A HAND.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

SHIN

...



SPANISH OMELET, HUH?

FUMI MENTIONED SHE LOVES THEM...

OH, DID SHE?



OH... I WAS DAY-DREAMING.

THE PAN'S SMOKING. YOU OKAY?

FUMI



THERE'S STILL THE "CURSE" PROBLEM, BUT SHE REALLY HELPS OUT HERE.

★ LUNCH MENU ★

- SPANISH OMELET WITH SPINACH
- CHICKEN, HAM & GRATED CARROT SALAD BAGUETTE SANDWICH
- CHERRY TOMATOES

THE END

...FUMI DECIDED TO STAY?

BUT ISN'T IT GREAT THAT...



WILL YOU GIVE ME LESSONS SOON?



DO ME A FAVOR, KOICHI?

HM?



WILL YOU TWO DO AN ENVIRONMENTAL ADJUSTMENT AT SHIMIZU-GAWA'S HOME TODAY?

GOT IT.

FUMI'S EAGER TO LEARN, AND THERE'S A LOT TO TEACH HER.



WE CAN
USE THE
SCHOOL'S
TEA
CEREMONY
ROOM, SO
COME
AFTER
CLASS.

HOW'S
TOMOR-
ROW
AFTER-
NOON?

OKAY,
THANKS.



IN
MARTIAL
ARTS?

TEA
CEREMONY.

THE
SOONER
THE
BETTER.
ARE YOU
TOO
BUSY?

THINGS
HAVE
CHANGED
A BIT.



BUT
FIRST...
TAKE CARE
OF FUMI.



PROTECT
HER IF
ANYTHING
GOES
WRONG.

AFTER
ALL,
SHE'S
MY...



OF
COURSE
I'LL
PROTECT
HER.



I'M
LATER
THAN I'D
LIKE, BUT
I'M HERE
TO HELP!

WHAT
ARE
YOUR
ORDERS?

BOSS!



Are they in
the drama
club?

What's
going
on?

S-SORRY.

BUT SINCE
I'VE TURNED
OVER A NEW
LEAF AND
WANT TO
BE A GOOD
SWEEPER...

Do you
have any
idea how
much an
average
guy hates
me, hates
everyone
there?

DON'T KNEEL
LIKE THAT!
ARE YOU
TRYING TO
DESTROY
ME?

AND I KEEP
TELLING
YOU NOT
TO HANG
AROUND ME
AT SCHOOL.



IT'S
FINE.
THANKS
FOR
ASKING.

Was
he
mad?
Not
at all.

SORRY!
WERE YOU TWO
TALKING?



THAT'S
AN
ORDER.
I'VE
GOT
THIS.

SEE,
SHE'S
CALLING
YOU.
GO.

AREN'T
YOU
HAVING
LUNCH?

FUMI!



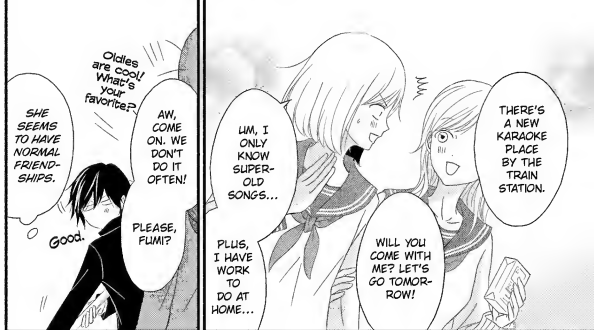
BY THE
WAY,
FUMI...

HM?
WHAT
IS IT?



OH...
OKAY.







...BUT
PEOPLE
CARRY
SPITE
INSIDE
THEM.

THAT'S
JUST
HOW
IT IS.

YOU CAN
KEEP YOUR
HEART AS
PURE AS
POSSIBLE...

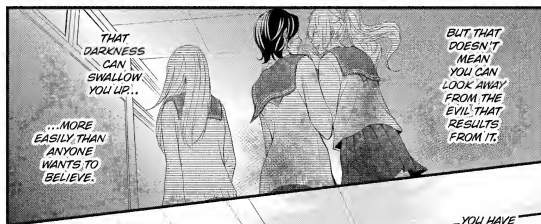


NICK



SOMETIMES
SPITE IS
BORN...

...AS EASILY
AS CRUSHING
A FLOWER
UNDERFOOT.



THAT
DARKNESS
CAN
SWALLOW
YOU UP...

...MORE
EASILY THAN
ANYONE
WANTS TO
BELIEVE.

BUT THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN
YOU CAN
LOOK AWAY
FROM THE
EVIL THAT
RESULTS
FROM IT.



HUH?
KARAOKE?

WHY?



YOU HAVE
TO LISTEN
TO HEAR
YOUR
HEART
WARNING
YOU...

...BEFORE
THAT
HAPPENS.



OH, I
FORGOT.
I'M
SORRY.

I'm
really
sorry.

NO. I
WANT YOU
TO NUR-
TURE YOUR
FRIEND-
SHIPS.

SOME
PEOPLE
CAN'T DO
THAT, EVEN
IF THEY
WANT TO.



BUT
TODAY
WAS MY
FIRST
NEW-LEAF
DAY!

TRAIN-
ING'S
MORE
IMPORTANT
THAN
SLEEP,
NEVER
MIND
HANGING
OUT!

YOUR
FRIEND
INVITED
YOU! SO
GO WITH
HER.

THERE'S
NO URGENT
WORK
TOMORROW.



I REALLY
DO NEED
TO TRAIN
HARDER.

BUT...



I WILL
BREAK IT,
I SWEAR.

THEN
I CAN
HURRY
UP AND
DO SOME-
THING
ABOUT MY
CURSE.



NOW I'VE
FINALLY
FOUND A
WAY TO
FIGHT IT.

FOR SO
LONG,
I DIDN'T
KNOW
ANYTHING.
ALL I
COULD DO
WAS RUN.



YOU'VE
ONLY JUST
STARTED.

THERE'S
NO RUSH.

SO-



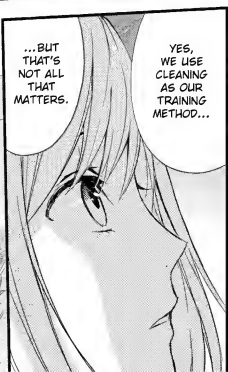
...HAS
NOTHING TO DO WITH
MAGIC OR
SPECIAL
ABILITIES.

HERE'S AN
IMPORTANT
LESSON.
A
SWEEPER'S
POWER TO
GET RID OF
BUGS...



IT'S
SIMPLER THAN
THAT. IT'S
HAVING
CONTROL
OVER YOUR
OWN STATE
OF MIND...

...AND
ACQUIRING
THE
EXPERIENCE
YOU NEED
TO DO THAT.



WHAT
MAKES
YOUR
MOOD
UNSTABLE...

...AND
WHAT DO
YOU HAVE
TO DO TO
STABILIZE
IT?

AND...

WHEN
ARE YOU
SAD?
WHEN
ARE YOU
HAPPY?
WHY?

ALWAYS
TRY TO...

...BE
AWARE
OF
YOUR
MENTAL
STATE.

...BUT
THAT'S
NOT ALL
THAT
MATTERS.

YES,
WE USE
CLEANING
AS OUR
TRAINING
METHOD...



...IN WHAT
SITUATIONS...



MY
PARENTS
AREN'T
HOME
MUCH, SO
NEXT THING
I KNEW...

UH...

SORRY
ABOUT
THIS.

...DOES
YOUR
HEART FEEL
HAPPIEST?



THOSE ARE
NORMAL
INSECTS.
CALM
DOWN.

EVEN
IF ONE
TOUCHES
YOU, IT
WON'T
AFFECT
YOUR
MIND...
MUCH.

UPON CON-
TEMPLATING
MY STATE OF
MIND, I FIND
IT'S GONE
HAYWIRE.

WE'RE TOO
LATE. THE
BUGS HAVE
TAKEN OVER.
LET'S RUN.





OR ARE
YOU ALL
TALK?

YOU
SAID YOU
WANTED TO
BE A FULL-
FLEDGED
SWEEPER.
GONNA LET
THIS LITTLE
BIT OF DIRT
THROW
YOU?

WHA
?

SHE'LL
BE DO-
ING MOST
OF THE
CLEANING.

HUH?

DON'T
WORRY.
IT'S
JUST
TYPICAL
FILTH.



I'LL
JUST BE
IN MY
ROOM—

NOT SO
FAST.
YOU'RE
HELPING
TOO.

It's
your
house.

GOOD!

AWESOME!
YOU GO!

FUMI
NISHIOKA,
APPRENTICE
SWEEPER,
WILL
SEE THIS
THROUGH!

FINE!
LET ME
AT IT!



THEY'RE
TRASH, OF
COURSE!
THROW
THEM ALL
AWAY.

WHAT
ABOUT DIS-
POS-
ABLE CHOP-
STICKS?
YOU CAN
WASH THEM
AND—

YES,
SIR!

DISHES,
COOKING
UTENSILS,
FOOD—
INCLUDING
SPICES—AND
WHATEVER
ELSE.

...THROW-
ING OUT
THE
TRASH
AND
SORTING
THE REST.

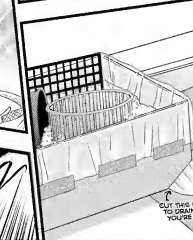
TRASH BAG

START
BY...

LET'S
GET
STARTED.



SOAK DRAIN PARTS IN BLEACH TOO!

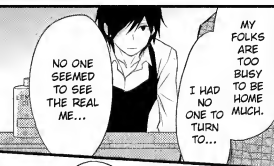


CUT THIS CORNER TO DRAIN WHEN YOU'RE DONE!



MY PARENTS ARE FAMOUS, SO PEOPLE GET EXCITED.

I WAS GETTING... TWITCHY LATELY.



NO ONE SEEMED TO SEE THE REAL ME...

MY FOLKS ARE TOO BUSY TO BE HOME MUCH. I HAD NO ONE TO TURN TO...

...BUT THAT WAS BECAUSE I WAS SO FOCUSED ON APPEARANCES.



SORRY FOR THE OTHER DAY.

NISHIOKA... FUMI, RIGHT?

I GUESS I WAS SICK, BUT I REMEMBER WHAT I DID.



HEH HEH! YOU'RE RIGHT. GREAT JOB!

I can see my face in the sink.

Feels good, huh?

WOW! IT'S ALL SO CLEAN!

THIS IS HOW THINGS LOOKED WHEN GRANDMA WAS ALIVE.





YOU
KNOW...

I THINK
I MIGHT
LOVE
CLEANING.

I FEEL
LIGHT-
HEARTED,
LIKE I
REALLY
ACCOM-
PLISHED
SOME-
THING.

Wahh

Wahh

Wahh

TAKING
STOCK
OF MY
MENTAL
STATE...

...I'D
SAY IT'S
REALLY
GOOD
RIGHT
NOW.

YEAH?
GLAD
TO
HEAR
IT.

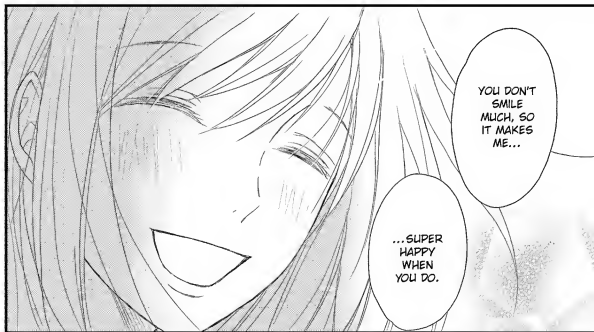
I DO
FEEL
THAT
WAY,
BUT...

...IF
YOU CAN
FEEL IT
LIFTING
YOUR
HEART.

GUESS
YOU'RE
NOT A
LOST
CAUSE...

HUH?

...IT'S
BECAUSE
I GET TO
SEE YOU
SMILE.



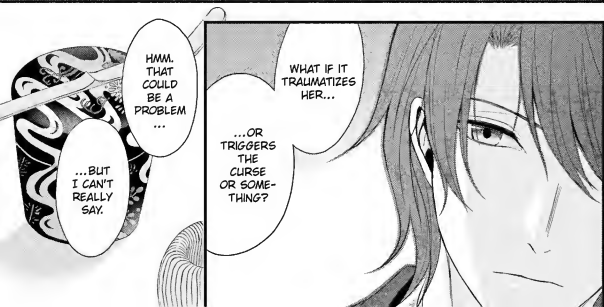


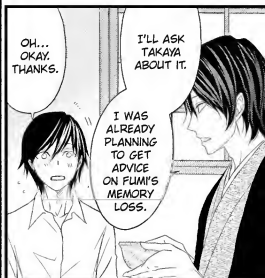
"...DOES
YOUR
HEART..."

"IN WHAT
SITUATIONS..."

"...FEEL
HAPPIEST?"



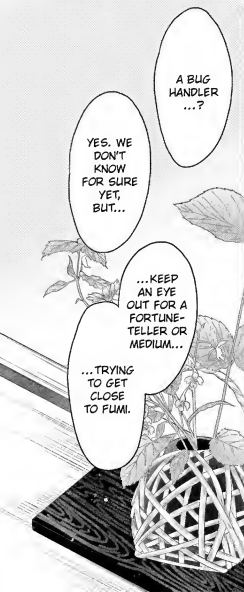




OH...
OKAY.
THANKS.

I'LL ASK
TAKAYA
ABOUT IT.

I WAS
ALREADY
PLANNING
TO GET
ADVICE
ON FUMI'S
MEMORY
LOSS.



YES. WE
DON'T
KNOW
FOR SURE
YET,
BUT...

A BUG
HANDLER
...?

...KEEP
AN EYE
OUT FOR A
FORTUNE-
TELLER OR
MEDIUM...

...TRYING
TO GET
CLOSE
TO FUMI.



...BECAUSE
THERE
WAS A BUG
HANDLER
BEHIND THE
SCENES.



OH!

I
FORGOT.



THIS IS
ABOUT
FUMI'S
"CURSE,"
AND IT'S
IMPORTANT.

SHIMIZU-
GAWA
MIGHT
HAVE
ATTACKED
HER...



WELL,
HE PROBABLY
JUST
WANTS
ME TO
STAY
SHARP.

ISN'T
THAT A
SWEEPER
URBAN
LEGEND?

A BUG
HANDLER?
IS HE
SERIOUS?



YEAH,
BUT...

WASN'T
SHE
INVITING
EVERYONE
YESTERDAY?

YOU
DIDN'T GO
TO THAT
KARAOKE
PLACE
WITH
KAORI?



I was
sure
it'd be
a hot
older
woman.

NO WAY!
YOU MEAN
THAT GUY
CALLED
D.K.?

NO,
WELL...

HEY...

APPAR-
ENTLY SOME
FASCINATING
GUY'S
GOING TO
BE THERE.

HE'S
FAMOUS.

SOME
FORTUNE-
TELLER
WHO
CAN SEE
PEOPLE'S
AURAS.

A
MIXER
?!

...TURNS
OUT IT
WAS A
MIXER...

HUH?
WHY
DIDN'T
SHE SAY
SO
EARLIER
?

...WITH
SOME
GUYS
FROM
F
HIGH.

FUMI
SPENT
AGES
PRACTIC-
ING THIS
ONE
BALLAD
...



NISHIOKA'S
THERE,
RIGHT?

W-WHAT
THE
HECK?

GRAB

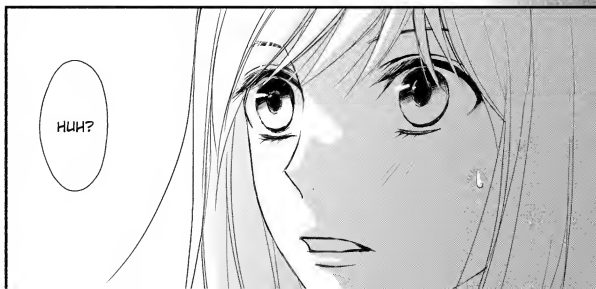
WHERE'S
THAT
KARAOKE
PLACE?
WHAT'S IT
CALLED?

HORI-
KITA?

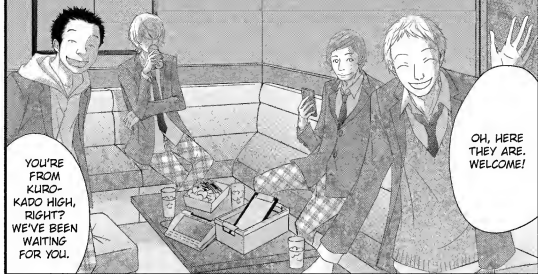


PLEASE,
YOU'VE
GOTTA
TELL ME!

IT'LL BE
TOO LATE
IF SOME-
THING
GOES
WRONG!



HUH?



YOU'RE
FROM
KURO-
KADO HIGH,
RIGHT?
WE'VE BEEN
WAITING
FOR YOU.

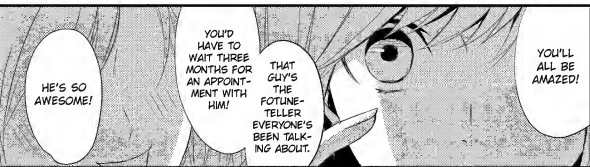
OH, HERE
THEY ARE.
WELCOME!



SORRY,
SORRY.

I WANTED
IT TO BE A
SURPRISE.

HEY,
KAORI!
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?!



HE'S SO
AWESOME!

YOU'D
HAVE TO
WAIT THREE
MONTHS FOR
AN APPOINT-
MENT WITH
HIM!

THAT
GUY'S
THE
FOTUNE-
TELLER
EVERYONE'S
BEEN TALK-
ING ABOUT.

YOU'LL
ALL BE
AMAZED!



...HE GOT
FUMI'S
INITIALS
RIGHT!

WHEN I
MENTIONED
THAT WE HAVE
A TRANSFER
STUDENT IN
OUR CLASS...





I'M SO
PLEASED
TO MEET
YOU.

I'VE BEEN
WAITING
FOR
YOU...



...FOR
A LONG,
LONG
TIME.





SWEEP 12



DID YOU
START
DATING
SOMEONE
RECENTLY?

THE
ATMO-
SPHERE
IN
HERE...

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

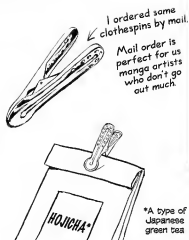
SANAKO
KAWAMURA,
HMM? LET
ME SEE.

SOMEONE
YOU'VE
LIKED SINCE
YOU WERE
LITTLE?

...FEELS...
OFF.
SOMETHING'S
NOT RIGHT.

We had another round of cleaning in Sweep 11! I used to save old ice packs and rubber bands like we see Shimizugawa doing, but I've stopped doing that.

I've switched to using aluminum clothespins instead of rubber bands to seal open packages of food. It's much more convenient! And if I need to tie something up, I just use string or plain masking tape.



I ordered some
clothespins by mail.
Mail order is
perfect for us
manga artists
who don't go
out much.

*A type of
Japanese
green tea



THE
RELATIONSHIP
SHOULD
GO
WELL.

I
SMOOTHED
OUT YOUR
AURA.

THERE'S A
PINK AURA
AROUND
YOUR RING
FINGER.
DEAD GIVE-
AWAY!

OR-
Z



OH,
WOW!
DOES HE
MEAN
SAKA-
GLUCHI?

TWO
WALL

WHA
...?

HOW
DID YOU
KNOW
THAT?



COME
ON,
MARIE!
WHY
DON'T
YOU GO
NEXT?

I'LL
NEVER
BE ABLE
TO MAKE
THIS
HAPPEN
AGAIN!

HUH?
NO,
UH...

UM...



A FAMOUS
PSYCHIC
IN MY
CLASS...
WHAT'RE
THE
ODDS?

I'VE
HAD
GREAT
LUCK
SINCE
I MET
HIM!

YEAH,
SAME
HERE!
EVER
SINCE HE
TOLD ME
MY LUCKY
COLOR!



IT'S
PURPLE,
STREAKED
WITH
YELLOW.
HMM.

UM...
COULD
YOU
LOOK AT
MINE?

WORRY-
ING
ABOUT
YOUR
CAREER
PATH?



Y-YES!
SHOULD I
GO INTO
SCIENCE OR
HUMANI-
TIES?

INCRED-
IBLE,
HUH?
HE'S THE
REAL
THING!

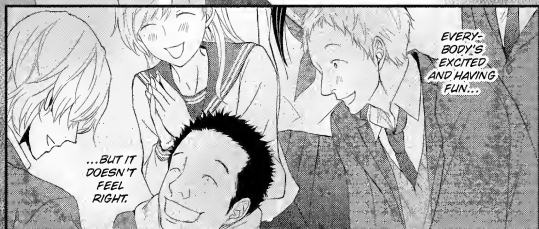




THERE'S
SOMETHING
FUNNY
GOING ON
HERE.

...DO I
FEEL SO
ANXIOUS
NOW?

TH-
THMP



...BUT IT
DOESN'T
FEEL
RIGHT.

EVERY-
BODY'S
EXCITED
AND HAVING
FUN...

TH-
THMP

...ABOUT
TO JUMP
OUT AT
ME.

IT FEELS
LIKE
THERE'S
SOMEONE
WITH A
KNIFE...



SORRY.
MY
HEAD...

AH...





I'M SENSITIVE TO A ROOM'S ATMOSPHERE.

I THINK THERE'RE BAD VIBES IN HERE.

AIRA READING TAKES A LOT OF ENERGY.



I'M SORRY.

W-WHAT'S WRONG, ATARU?

I GUESS I'M TIRED. I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD TODAY.



AARGH!

YOU TOLD THEM TO BE QUIET...

NO ONE ASKED YOU, SANAKO!

ATARU'S DOING US A FAVOR! DON'T RUIN THIS FOR ALL OF US!



YOU TWO, THIS IS YOUR FAULT! CUT IT OUT!

YOU'RE RIGHT! IN SOME OBVIOUS SPOTS!



HUH?

NO, WAIT!

ME TOO. I'LL CHIP IN FOR THE ROOM COST TOMORROW.

Sorry, Sanako. It's your fault.

OKAY.

YOU'RE BEING AWFUL!



I JUST HAD THE WRONG IDEA...

...ABOUT WHAT WE'D BE UP TO TODAY.

GLARE



SORRY TO INTERFERE.

I'LL HEAD HOME NOW.



WAIT, FUMI
NISHIOKA.



WHAT
...?

MY GIFT IS
PURIFYING
PEOPLE'S
HEARTS...

...BUT
THERE ARE
THOSE
WHO
BLACKEN
HEARTS.

SHE'S
ONE OF
THOSE
PEOPLE.

YOU'RE
CURSED...

...
AREN'T
YOU?

THE
BLACK AURA
FILLING
THE ROOM
IS COMING
FROM YOU.

CLATTER

IT'S TOO
STRONG
FOR ME TO
DISPERSE.

I SEE
YOU FOR
WHO YOU
ARE.



AAAAAAAAAH!

EEEK!

WAS
IT
YOU?

EEP!

WERE
YOU THE
ONE
LAUGHING?

MMPH!

STOP LAUGHING!!

URK-!

ARE
YOU
OKAY,
SANA-
KO?

GET
OUT
OF
HERE!



DON'T LET
HER NEAR
YOU!
SHE'LL
INFECT
YOU!

YANK

KAORI!
WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING?

WE HAVE
TO GET OUT
BEFORE SHE
CURSES US!



HOW
MANY
TIMES...

NO...

...DOES
THIS
MAKE?

NOT
AGAIN.



OHH...

BANG

TMP
TMP

HEY!
WAIT
UP!



LET'S
GET
OUT OF
HERE!

W-
WHAT
ABOUT
KIMURA
?

TOO
LATE!
HE'S
ALREADY
CURSED!

IF WE
STAY, WE
WILL BE
TOO!



DON'T YOU
UNDERSTAND?
STOP
FIGHTING
IT.

THIS KEEPS
HAPPENING
TO YOU,
DOESN'T
IT?



THIS
IS YOUR
DESTINY.

AURAS,
PURIFICA-
TION...

DO YOU
BELIEVE
THAT
STUFF?

I SURE
DON'T.
IT'S ALL
GARBAGE.

HAH!

CAN...

CAN
YOU
REALLY
SEE MY
CURSE?

IF YOU
CAN HON-
ESTLY
PURIFY
PEOPLE,
HELP THEM-

TH-
THMP



THEY GET
THEIR
GRUBBY
HANDS
ALL OVER
YOU.

IDIOTS
LIKE THEM
BELIEVE
ANYTHING.

ARE YOU
GOING TO
SPEND
YOUR LIFE
LISTENING
TO THEM?

TH-
THMP



YOU
MUST BE
SICK OF
IT. GIVE
UP.

LET
ME
TAKE
YOU...

...DEEPER.

...
SOME-
PLACE...





YOU'RE
A BUG
HANDLER,
AREN'T
YOU?

KEEP
YOUR
HANDS
OFF
HER.

YES,
I'M ALL
RIGHT.

YES.

CONCENTRATE.
CALM YOURSELF.
CAN YOU DO IT?

LISTEN TO MY
HEART-BEAT.

STAY
ALERT.
YOU'LL BE
CONSUMED.

K-
KYUTARO
...

TWITCH

AH!

AH...

CLUTCH

NISHI-
OKA.



THERE
YOU
GO.

KYLITARO'S
HERE NOW.

GOOD...

KYLITARO...



A A A H . . .

WHY
DID YOU
CALL HER
CURSED?

WHAT'S
YOUR
INTEREST
IN
NISHIOKA?

OH, I
SEE.

YOU'RE
THAT
SWEEPER.

WHAT
BRINGS
YOU
HERE?

I'LL
ASK THE
QUESTIONS.





WHA...?

NOT AT ALL... SORRY...

Does that mean I failed?!

IT'S A TEMPORARY FIX.

DID YOU NOTICE HE WAS INFESTED?



I'M SORRY! WHY DID I-?

IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.

REST NOW.



Wow! He's back to normal.

YOU'RE OKAY NOW. JUST BREATHE. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

AGH ...

IT'S... DAIKI KIMURA ...

HUFF ...



WHERE'D HE GO, ANYWAY?

NOT REALLY SURPRISING WITH A BUG HANDLER AROUND.



I'VE BEEN HERE ALL ALONG.

I GOT SO SCARED THAT MY LEGS WOULDN'T MOVE.

Mmph...

HOW LONG WERE YOU THERE?

YOU DIDN'T RUN?



M-MARIE ?!

IF YOU MEAN ATARI, HE LEFT...

...WHILE YOU WERE BUSY OVER THERE.

ACTING



THEY WERE YELLING ABOUT CURSES AND STUFF AND BEING MEAN TO FUMI.



SO YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?





WHERE'S
KAORI?

SIGH...







WELL, ANY-
THING FRIED
TASTES GOOD
WHEN IT'S
FRESH.

It's not
bad
today.

You
over-
mixed
the
batter.

HOW WONDER-
FUL! KOICHI'S
COOKING HAS
NEVER BEEN
PRAISED
BEFORE.

NO, NO!
IT'S
DELICIOUS!

It's
crispy
!!!

SEE?
IT'S NOT
GOURMET
OR ANY-
THING-NO
NEED TO
BE SHY.

TO BE
HONEST,
I'M NOT
GREAT AT
FRYING
FOOD.

The
batter's
too
heavy...



NOW,
THEN.



...IS WHAT
WE CALL
A "BUG
HANDLER."

THE
FORTUNE-
TELLER
WHO TRIED
TO TAKE
YOU...



NO...

I'D
NEVER
HEARD IT
BEFORE
KYUTARO
SAID IT.

ARE YOU
FAMILIAR
WITH THE
TERM?

AS THE
NAME
IMPLIES
...

AH.



THIS ISN'T
THE MOST
POLITE
TALK OVER
DINNER,
BUT...

...I
IMAGINE
IT'S
WEIGHING
ON YOU,
FUMI.



AS A
GENERAL
RULE, YOU
CAN'T KNOW
HOW A BUG
WILL AFFECT
ITS VICTIM.

...A BUG
HANDLER
USES
BUGS TO
MANIPULATE
OTHERS.



BUT A BUG
HANDLER
HAS A
TREMENDOUS
AMOUNT OF
CONTROL.

THEY
CONTROL
WHAT THE
VICTIM
SAYS AND
DOES...

...WHEN A
SEIZURE
WILL
STRIKE, AND
EVEN THE
TIMING OF
THAT
PERSON'S
DESTRUCTION.

TO A BUG
HANDLER,
THE INFESTED
PERSON IS
NOTHING BUT
A PUPPET TO
BE DISPOSED
OF.

THAT'S
WHAT
YOU SAW
TODAY.

...



IF THEY
CAN
INSERT
THE
INFESTED
PERSON
INTO A
GROUP...

...IT'S
THAT
MUCH
EASIER
FOR THEM
TO INFLUENCE
EVERYONE
AT ONCE.



THEY'RE
EXPERTS AT
HYPNOSIS
AND MIND
CONTROL.

THEY CAN
MAKE PEOPLE
MORE
SUSCEPTIBLE
TO
INFESTATION...

...AND
THEY'RE
GOOD AT
INCITING
GROUP
PANIC.

SINCE





HE
LOOKED
KINDA
LIKE THIS.



Like he was
trying to be
all mysterious
or something.

I GUESS
HE DID
LOOK A
LITTLE
SUSPICIOUS.

Is he
an actor?

HE
LOOKED
THIS
SINISTER?



Black nails

- Droopy eyes
- Kind of messy hair
- Lips a little thick
- Thin/lanky
- Kept rambling about auras (whatever that means)
- school uniform



And I'm
no good
at
drawing
hands...

SORRY.
THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I WAS
GETTING
AT.

FORGIVE
ME, I DIDN'T
NAIL THE
SUBTLER
DETAILS...

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.
YOU DID
GOOD.

DID HE
SEEM A
LITTLE...
CYNICAL?



GOOD.

?

NEVER,
HUH?

HUH?
NO,
NEVER.



DID YOU
EVER
NOTICE
HIM
AROUND...

...
BEFORE
?



OH...

...WHETHER
THIS BOY
CAUSED
YOUR
EARLIER
PROBLEMS.

FUMI,
WHAT Q'S
WONDER-
ING IS...



HMM...

I SEE.
GOOD
POINT.



BLAMING
EVERYTHING
ON YOU,
MAKING
THEM
BELIEVE
YOU'RE
CURSED...

SETTING UP
DISASTERS
AND BLAMING
THEM ON A
NONEXISTENT
"CURSE"...

IT'S LIKE
STAGING
A WITCH
HUNT.

...AND
DIRECTING
EVERYONE'S
ANGER AT
YOU.



...AND
USING
THAT
TORMENT
TO BACK
YOU INTO A
CORNER.

THAT'S
THE
PATTERN
WE'RE
SEEING.



ACCIDENTS
AND
ILLNESSES
HAPPEN
JUST FINE
ON THEIR
OWN
WITHOUT A
CURSE
TRIGGERING
THEM.

THERE
WERE
ACCIDENTS!
PEOPLE GOT
SICK! THERE
WAS A
SCANDAL AT
WORK!

B-
BUT...

...SO
MANY
PEOPLE
SUFFERED!

TH-
THMP



I'M A
PROFESSIONAL.
I KNOW.

...THAT YOU
DON'T HAVE
THE POWER
TO BRING
BAD LUCK
TO ANYONE.

AND I CAN
ABSOLUTELY
TELL YOU...



YOU
MEAN...



BUT THAT
BUG
HANDLER
CAME AFTER
YOU
TODAY...

...SO
THERE HAS
TO BE SOME
OTHER
REASON...

...WHY HE
WOULD HUNT
YOU DOWN
AND TRY TO
CORNER YOU.

TH-
THMP



... THAT
BUG
HANDLER
...

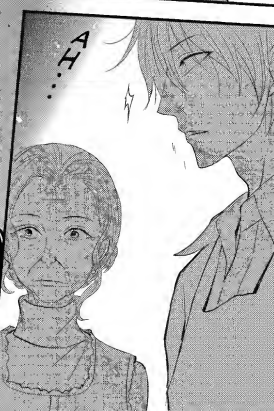
... KNOWS
WHO I
AM?



HE
KNOWS
WHY I'M
CURSED?
WHY I
CAN'T
REMEM-
BER
ANY-
THING?

FUMI
...?

HE'D BE
ABLE TO
TELL ME?



... HA





We're
in the
middle
of
dinner.

KYUTARO,
WHAT'S
WRONG?

UM...

FOR A
SECOND,
SHE
SEEMED...

HUH?

DID I SAY
SOMETHING
WEIRD?

DID I
IMAGINE
IT?

WELL,
YOU...



BECAUSE
IF I DON'T-

NO.

It's
scary.

WHY ARE
YOU SAY-
ING SUCH
DANGEROUS
THINGS?

I'll
catch
him off
guard!

OKAY, NOW
THAT I
KNOW THAT,
I'LL KEEP
MY GUARD
UP!

IF I PUNCH
HIM IN THE
GUT A FEW
TIMES, HE'LL
SETTLE
DOWN.

YOU
WERE
BEING
SERIOUS?
BUT HE'S
THE
ENEMY!

WHAT?

I GUESS
MAYBE
ASKING
HIM ISN'T
THE BEST
IDEA?

SHOULD

YEAH,
BUT...





IF YOU
SAY SO...

ALL
RIGHT.

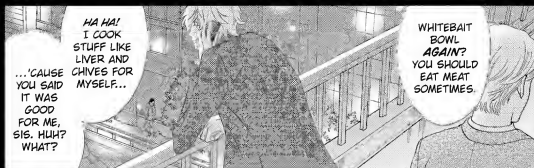


HOW'RE
THINGS?
DO YOU
HAVE A
COLD?

HELLO?
THIS IS
ATARU.
YEAH...

WHAT'D
YOU EAT
TODAY?

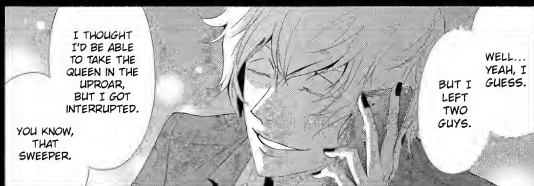




... 'CAUSE
YOU SAID
IT WAS
GOOD
FOR ME,
SIS. HUH?
WHAT?

HA HA!
I COOK
STUFF LIKE
LIVER AND
CHIVES FOR
MYSELF...

WHITEBAIT
BOWL
AGAIN?
YOU SHOULD
EAT MEAT
SOMETIMES.



YOU KNOW,
THAT
SWEEPER.

I THOUGHT
I'D BE ABLE
TO TAKE THE
QUEEN IN THE
UPROAR,
BUT I GOT
INTERRUPTED.

BUT I
LEFT
TWO
GUYS.

WELL...
YEAH, I
GUESS.



AND I'VE
GOT HER
IN MY
SIGHTS.

AFTER
THAT,
IT'S
WINNER
TAKES
ALL.

HMM?
WHAT'S THE
DIFFERENCE?
I DID IT JUST
LIKE I WAS
TOLD.

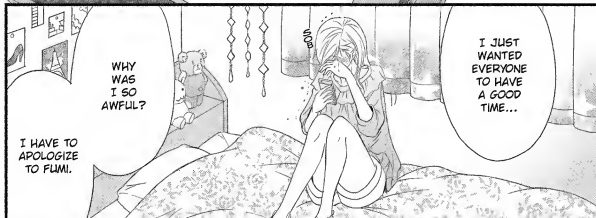
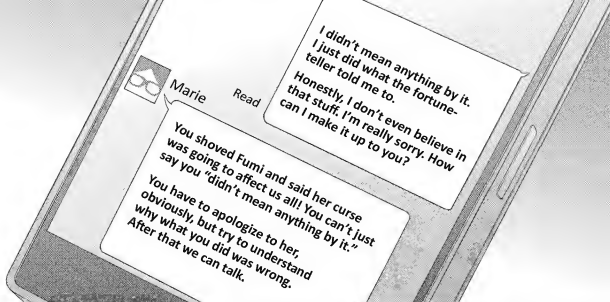


THIS NEW
ONE'S
IN THE
QUEEN'S
CLASS.

I FELT
BAD
ABOUT
THE KID
TODAY
THOUGH.

SHE'S
A REAL
PIECE
OF
WORK.

I THINK
I'LL
PULL IT
OFF. I'M
GETTING
MYSELF
A NEW
SLAVE.





YOU KNOW
FUMI
NISHIOKA,
IN OUR
CLASS?
WELL,
DID YOU
KNOW...

SHE
WASN'T...

IT
WASN'T
MY
FAULT!

THERE
WERE
LOTS OF
PEOPLE
THERE.



...REALLY
TO BLAME.
SHE'S
JUST A
LITTLE
WEAK.

...THAT
SHE'S
CURSED?

IT'S
TRUE.
ATARU
SAID SO
HIMSELF.

THAT
AWFUL
THING
THAT
HAPPENED
...

...COULD
HAVE
HAPPENED
TO ANYONE.



SWEEP 13







I'M FUMI
NISHIOKA,
APPRENTICE
SWEEPER.

HI,
EVERYONE.



CHECK OUT
THIS REALLY
COOL
SWEEPER
POSE I CAME
UP WITH!

MY MOTTO IS
"TENACIOUS,
SHAMELESS,
CALCULATING."

MY GOAL
IN LIFE IS
TO FIND
MY PRINCE
CHARMING!

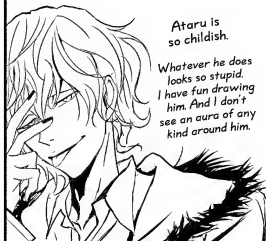
MY FAVORITE
WORDS ARE
"PRINCE
CHARMING."

...AND...

... "CURSED" ...

... "INDIGESTION" ...

MY LEAST
FAVORITE
WORDS
ARE...



Ataru is
so childish.

Whatever he does
looks so stupid.
I have fun drawing
him. And I don't
see an aura of any
kind around him.

I kind of put aura reading
down in Sweep 12, so I
have to apologize. I can't
see auras at all, so it's all
foreign to me.

It must be terrible for
people who really can see
auras. When they're in a
crowded train, all those
colors must be dizzying!
Am I wrong?



...UNREASONABLE."



OH,
POOR
THING.

DON'T
MEET HER
EYES.
IT'S DAN-
GEROUS.

CURSED?
ARE YOU
SERIOUS?



DOING
THAT
TOOK
NERVE...

I HEARD
SHE DID
SOME-
THING
YESTER-
DAY.

IT'S
FREAKY.

CURSED
UNFORGIVABLE
GIRL



IT'S HER OWN FAULT.

HA HA!
THEY
ALREADY
HATE HER.
POOR
THING...

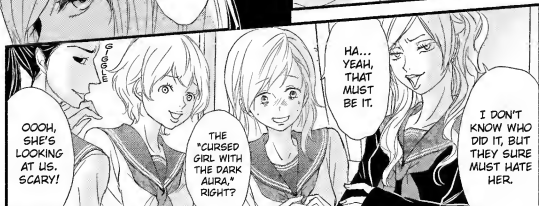


N-NO IDEA.
NOT MY
PROBLEM.

OH?
WHAT DID
NISHIOKA
DO,
EXACTLY
?

HEY!
WHO
DID
THIS?

DON'T
TALK TO
THEM,
STUPID.



OOOH,
SHE'S
LOOKING
AT US.
SCARY!

THE
"CURSED
GIRL WITH
THE DARK
AURA,"
RIGHT?

HA...
YEAH,
THAT
MUST
BE IT.

I DON'T
KNOW WHO
DID IT, BUT
THEY SURE
MUST HATE
HER.



KAORI,
DID YOU
SAY
THAT
STUFF
...

...
ABOUT
A
FRIEND
?

B-BUT
...

UM
...



RIGHT,
KAORI?

WE'RE
NOT! SHE
REALLY
UPSET
ATARU!

HUH?
Y-YEAH.



DID
YOU DO
THAT
TO
FUMI'S
DESK?

UH-OH!
FOUR-
EYED
MARIE'S
ANGRY.

YOU'RE
BEING
RIDICU-
LOUS!

IS
SHE
SIDING
WITH
THE
CURSED
GIRL?



HAW
HAW
HAW!

SHUT
UP, YOU
PATHETIC
ATARU
GROUPIE!

HEY,
KAWAMURA,
YOU'RE
LOOKIN'
UGLY. BEEN
CURSED?

Oooh,
scary.
Ha ha
ha!

She's
scary.
Eeek!

What
a dog!

Ha
ha
ha
ha!

GUYS,
THEY'RE
LOOKING
AT YOU!
YOU'LL
GET
CURSED!



HA
HA
HA

RATTLE
NO ...
STOP

HAVE
YOU
LOST IT?
POOR
KAORI!

WHAT'S
WITH
YOU?!
WHO'S
WEIRD?!

STOP,
MARIE.
YOU
WON'T GET
THROUGH TO THEM.

SLAM



IT'S
NOT
MY
FAULT.

EVERY-
ONE'S
SAYING
HOW
WEIRD
FUMI IS...

SHE
ASKED
ABOUT
YESTERDAY...
I BARELY
SAID
ANYTHING.



BUT
NISHI-
OKA,
YOUR
DESK-

KYUTARO,
GO SIT
DOWN,
OKAY?

NO BIG
DEAL.
AND
CLASS IS
ABOUT
TO
START.



THANKS
FOR
STANDING
UP FOR
ME...

...BUT
I'M ALL
RIGHT.

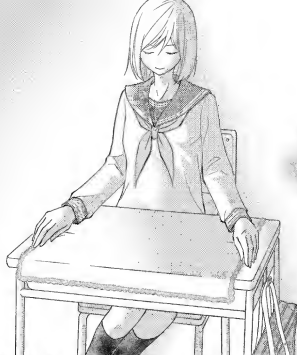
FUMI...



MARIE,
SANAKO...



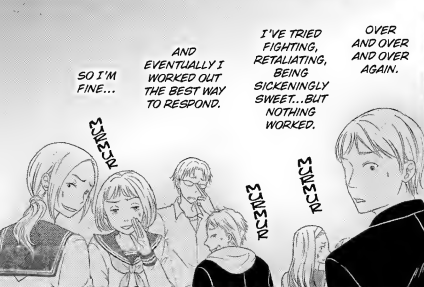
アツメ



I STILL
HAVEN'T
DONE
ANYTHING
WRONG.

CALL ME
ANYTHING
YOU
WANT.

I'VE DEALT
WITH THIS
STUPIDITY
BEFORE.



I'VE TRIED
FIGHTING,
RETALIATING,
BEING
SICKENINGLY
SWEET...BUT
NOTHING
WORKED.

OVER
AND OVER
AND OVER
AGAIN.





YOU'RE
GOING
TOO
FAR.

I'M
NOT
DOWN
WITH
THAT.

HUH?
WHAT'S
YOUR
PROBLEM?

WE'RE
TEASING
HER
'CAUSE
WE
LOOOOVE
HER.

FEELING
A LITTLE
LESS
CURSED?
HA HA!

THERE,
HAVE A
HOLY-
WATER
BATH!

YEAH!
BULL'S-
EYE!

...BECAUSE
I KNOW
WHAT I'M UP
AGAINST.

I KNOW
THIS IS THE
BEST WAY
TO REACT.

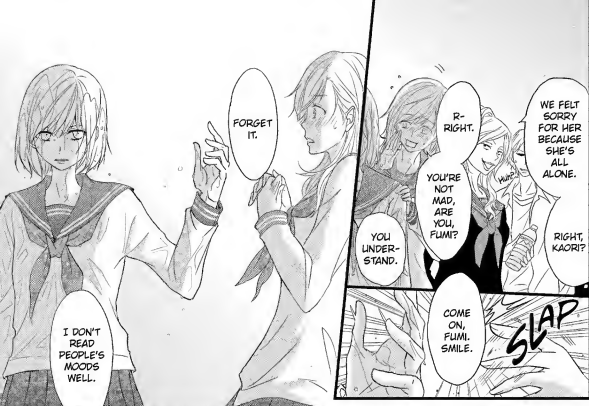
WOW,
SHE'S
GOT SOME
NERVE.
MOST
GIRLS
WOULD
CRY.

BUT IT
FEELS
LIKE
SHE'S
LOOKING
DOWN
ON US.

I'VE
ALWAYS
THOUGHT
SHE'S A
LITTLE
OFF, YOU
KNOW?

BEING
CALLED
"CURSED"
AND
WHOMEVER'S
SAYING
IT?

THEY'RE
BOTH A
PROBLEM.





NO PLAY-
ING WITH
WATER IN
THE HALL.

TAKE
THAT
RAG
AND
CLEAN
IT UP.



I'M
HORIKITA
FROM THE
BEAUTIFICA-
TION
COMMITTEE.

THINK
HE WAS
TRYING
TO LOOK
COOL? BET
IT BACK-
FIRES ON
HIM!

I didn't
know
he's
like
that.

HE
STRAIGHT
UP PRO-
TECTED
HER.

YOU
SEE
THAT?

THERE'S
NOTH-
ING CUTE
ABOUT
NISHIOKA'S
ATTITUDE.

Tell me
about it.

I MEAN,
IF SHE
WERE
LESS
PUSHY,
WE'D-

THEY LIVE
TOGETHER.
RELATIVES?

WHAT'S
UP
WITH
THEM?



YOU'VE
GOT
CLEANING
TO DO
TOO,
NISHIOKA.

COME
ON.

HUH?
OH-

O-
OKAY.



WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, ANYWAY? KAORI!



We didn't mean anything.

HUH? WE... WE WEREN'T...

Sorry...

I wasn't blaming you.

I GUESS OUTSIDERS CAN SAY WHAT THEY WANT.



REALLY?

SAKA-GUCHI!

I THINK FUMI'S GREAT. SHE'S GOT GUTS.

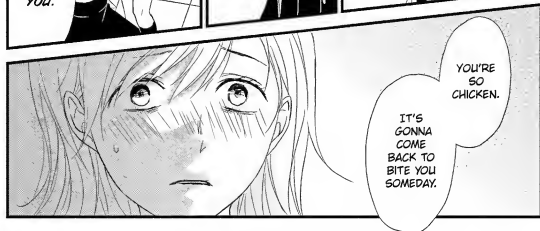
YOU GUYS SOUND MEAN-LIKE TALK SHOW CRITICS.



CUT THAT OUT.

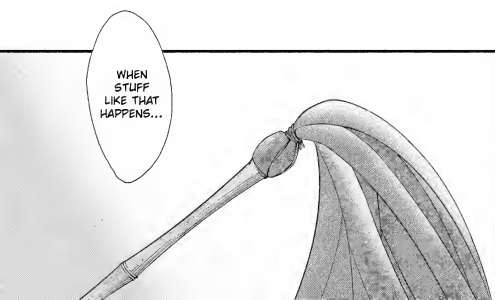
I'M TALKING ABOUT YOU.

WHY'RE YOU SINGLING ME OUT? WE ALL-



YOU'RE SO CHICKEN.

IT'S GONNA COME BACK TO BITE YOU SOMEDAY.



WHEN STUFF LIKE THAT HAPPENS...



IF YOU
FOCUS
COMPLETELY
ON IT,
YOU'LL FEEL
BETTER...

CLEANING
WON'T
EVER
BETRAY
YOU.



I SEE.

It's
psycho-
logical!

...AND
EVEN IF
YOU DON'T,
AT LEAST
YOUR
ROOM'LL
BE CLEAN.



SCRUB A
HUNDRED
TIMES
HARDER
THAN USUAL!
TAKE OUT
ALL THE
ANGER AND
FRUSTRATION
ON THE
DIRT.

...YOU
SHOULD
CLEAN
LIKE
CRAZY!

RIGHT...



THIS IS
HIS IDEA
OF A PEP
TALK,
HUH?

I-I
GUESS
SO?

LIFE GOES
ON JUST
FINE EVEN
IF YOU
HAVE NO
FRIENDS.



DON'T
LET IT
GET TO
YOU-OR
MAYBE
THAT'S
IMPOS-
SIBLE.

TRY
NOT TO
GET DE-
PRESSED.

JUST
REMEM-
BER IT'S
NOT YOUR
FAULT.



HUH?

AND...

...TRY TO
AVOID BEING
ALONE. STAY
NEAR ME AS
MUCH AS
YOU CAN.





THAT'S A
WORRYING
THOUGHT.

IT'S
POSSIBLE
THAT BUG
HANDLER,
ATARU
SHIKATA, IS
INVOLVED.

THE
TIMING
OF THIS
BULLYING
MAKES ME
SUSPICIOUS.



IT'S DIS-
GUSTING.

HE'S DOING
ALL THIS
TO HURT
YOU—
BREAK YOU
DOWN.

AFTER
WHAT HAP-
PENED AT
THE KARA-
OKE PLACE
YESTER-
DAY...

I'll tell
Koichi
about the
bullying.



So
there!

...I
KNOW
HOW TO
ACT AT
TIMES
LIKE
THESE.

THIS
ISN'T
GONNA
BREAK
ME.
DON'T
WORRY!

I'LL
BE
FINE.

HE'S
ANGRY...

YOU
ALWAYS
RESCUE
ME...

...FOR
ME.

...AND
MARIE AND
SANAKO
ARE ON
MY SIDE.
BESIDES...



I'LL
GET IT
OUT.
COME
HERE.

OH, THE
FLOOR'S
SPLITTING
A LITTLE.

ALL
RIGHT.

We
can't
fix it.



OH!
I can't
get it
out!

FEELS
LIKE I
GOT A
SPLINTER
IN MY
FINGER.

YOU
OKAY
?



OUCH!



OKAY.
Thanks.

SO?
GO ON.

HUH?

THERE
YOU
GO.

I'M
GOING TO
DISINFECT
IT.



BUT IT'S
EMBAR-
RASSING.

HOW
DO YOU
ACT AT
"TIMES
LIKE
THESE"?

YOU
WERE
SAYING...

O-OH,
THAT...

PROMISE
YOU
WON'T
LAUGH.

WHEN
THINGS
GET
HARD...

COME
ON.
IT'S
ONLY
ME.

EMBAR-
RASSING?
HOW
COME?

I DON'T
FEEL
LIKE IT.

YOU
HAVE
TO
TELL
ME.

I CAN'T.
TELL
ME!

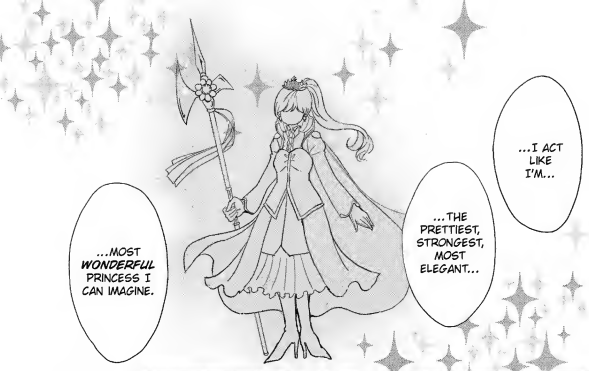
FORGET
IT. IT'S
FINE.

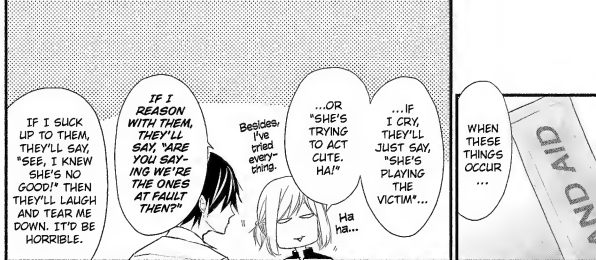
I
thought
he'd
missed
that.

you
said it
like you
were
chal-
lenging
the
world!

TUG TUG







IF I SUCK UP TO THEM, THEY'LL SAY, "SEE, I KNEW SHE'S NO GOOD!" THEN THEY'LL LAUGH AND TEAR ME DOWN. IT'D BE HORRIBLE.

IF I REASON WITH THEM, THEY'LL SAY, "ARE YOU SAYING WE'RE THE ONES AT FAULT THEN?"

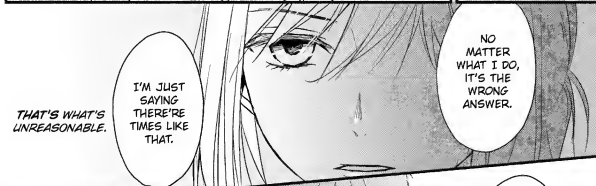
Besides, I've tried everything.

...OR "SHE'S TRYING TO ACT CUTE. HA!"

...IF I CRY, THEY'LL JUST SAY, "SHE'S PLAYING THE VICTIM"...

WHEN THESE THINGS OCCUR ...

Ha ha...



THAT'S WHAT'S UNREASONABLE.

I'M JUST SAYING THERE'RE TIMES LIKE THAT.

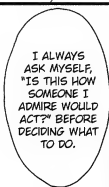
NO MATTER WHAT I DO, IT'S THE WRONG ANSWER.



I CAN'T TRUST OTHER PEOPLE'S TAKE ON THINGS.

...I ACT IN THE WAY THAT'S RIGHT FOR ME.

SO WHEN THAT HAPPENS...



I ALWAYS ASK MYSELF, "IS THIS HOW SOMEONE I ADMIRE WOULD ACT?" BEFORE DECIDING WHAT TO DO.



...WITH ELEGANCE AND BEAUTY.

I ACT IN A WAY THAT I CAN BE PROUD OF...



...I WON'T
GET
CRUSHED BY
TRYING TO
MAKE UN-
REASONABLE
PEOPLE LIKE
ME...

...AND
LOSE
MYSELF
IN THE
PROCESS.

AND
THEN, NO
MATTER
HOW BAD
THINGS
GET...



I DON'T
KNOW. IT
JUST FELT
RIGHT.

THE IDEA OF
PRINCESSES
HAS ALWAYS
BEEN
SPECIAL
TO ME.



THAT'S
ALL YOU
HAVE TO
SAY?

That's
the
story
of my
fate!

HMM.
GOTCHA.

I THINK
I UNDER-
STAND.

BUT
WHY'D YOU
CHOOSE A
PRINCESS?



WIDA



SILLY, HUH?
YOU CAN
LAUGH IF
YOU WANT.

"...YOU'RE
LIKE A
PRINCESS."



"FUYU..."



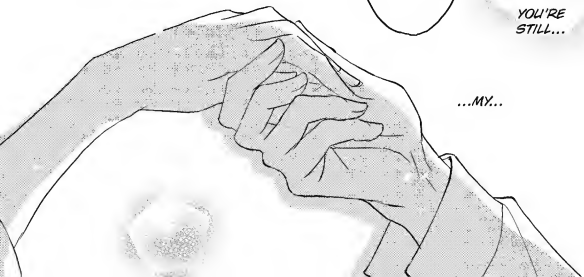
NO, IT'S
NOT
SILLY.

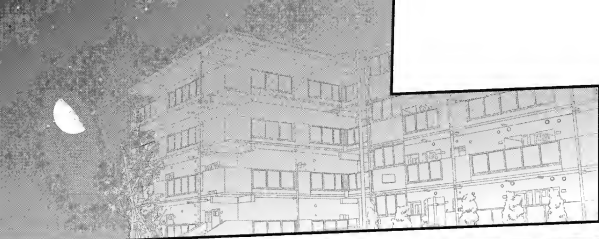


IT'S
LOVELY.

YOU'RE
STILL...

...MY...





HUH? IT'S
YOUR FAULT,
ISN'T IT? DON'T
EXAGGERATE
THINGS. SEE
YOU!

JUST
REMEMBER,
WE DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT THIS.

YOU SAW
THAT EMAIL
ATARU SENT,
RIGHT?

[URGENT] 4A Aura Counseling Room
To All Members

Dear Members,

This isn't the usual newsletter, but I felt I had to quickly reach out to you all myself.

Someone's been spreading misinformation about what happened at my last aura counseling session.

Tragically, this includes rumors that F.N., a student at K. High, is "cursed," and that her negative aura will contaminate others.

To be clear, I did counsel Miss N. on her aura, and the word "curse" did come up, but I was simply cautioning her that the flow of her aura was in trouble. She would never curse anyone or cause misfortune to others. And I have to point out that my current poor health has nothing at all to do with her; it was caused by someone else at the session who was criticizing Miss N. and other attendees.

If any of you have heard these unfounded rumors, please ignore them.

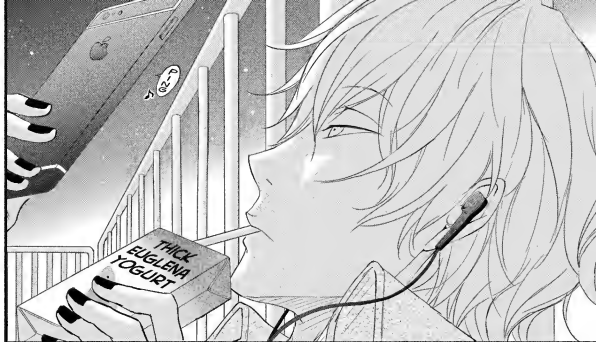
I'm considering taking steps personally against anyone spreading these stories and slandering Miss. N. Please contact me if you have any information.

NO WAY...
ATARU'S
THE ONE
WHO...

HUH?

W-
WHAT IS
THIS?





NONE OF THEM ARE ANYTHING BUT A PLAGUE. I HATE THE WORLD.

COME TO ME SOON...

PLEASE, FUMI.

THIS IS RIDICULOUSLY EASY. CHECK-MATE, KAORI TACHIBANA.

I'LL GET HER TOMORROW.

love you! ♪

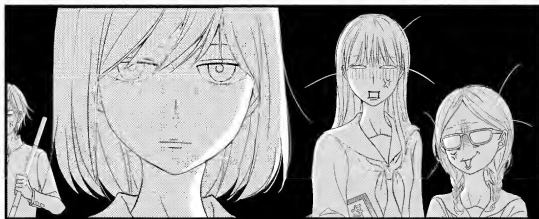
SOMEONE'S SNITCHING ALREADY, HMM?

KAORI!! I just read your message and really feel how upset you were. It's the worst! Please don't tell anyone about this, but I know who started it all: Kaori Tachibana, from our school. It sounds like she's been doing some of the bullying herself too. I know the girl who's being targeted, at least a little. I'll try to cheer her up at school tomorrow! I'd like to help you make our class

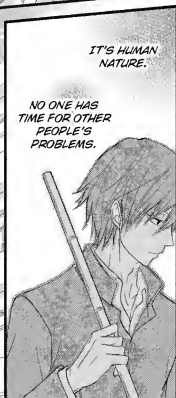
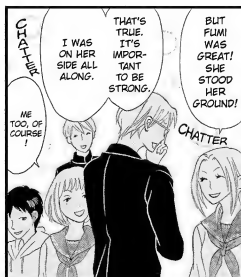
THE WORST KIND OF PERSON. I'LL DEAL WITH HER ANOTHER TIME.

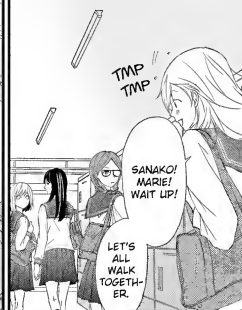
I'M TOO BUSY TO HANDLE THEM ALL.

BUT WEREN'T YOU ONE OF THE ONES DOING THE BULLYING? UNBELIEVABLE.









WHOA,
THAT
WAS
HARSH!

...THE
STRATEGY
SHE
CHOSE...

SHE
BROUGHT
IT ON
HERSELF.

...WHEN
SHE WAS
TRYING...

SHE'S
ALWAYS
COZYING
UP TO
PEOPLE.

...TO
PROTECT
HERSELF.

GIRLS LIKE
HER MAKE
ME SICK!
ALWAYS
TRYING
TO MAKE
THINGS
BENEFIT
THEM...

I'M NOT
REALLY
THAT
DIFFERENT
FROM HER.

EVERYONE
HAS THEIR
HANDS
FULL...

...TRYING TO
TAKE CARE OF
THEMSELVES.

HER
MISTAKE
WAS...

I DID
THAT FOR
MYSELF,
NOT YOU.

I CAN'T
WATCH
SOME-
ONE GET
USED AS
A SCAPE-
GOAT JUST
BECAUSE
IT'S MORE
CONVENIENT
FOR
EVERY-
BODY
ELSE.

I COULDN'T
LIVE WITH
MYSELF.



BREATHE
DEEPLY
AND HOLD
OUT YOUR
HAND.

CLOSE
YOUR
EYES...

NOW YOUR
REAL MIND IS
REFLECTED IN
THE MIRROR.

OPEN YOUR
EYES WHEN
I COUNT TO
FOUR.

ONE...

TWO...

THREE
...

FOUR.

ATARU
...

I WANT
TO HELP
TELL
ME ALL
ABOUT IT.

I SENSED
THAT YOU
WERE
FEELING
HURT...

FORGET
ALL OF
THAT.

THEY
SOUND
LIKE
HORRIBLE
FRIENDS.

I APOLO-
GIZED,
BUT THEY
DIDN'T
FORGIVE
ME.

ALL MY
FRIENDS
HATE
ME!

YEAH
...

SO
JUST
DO AS
I SAY.

YES.

I'LL
ALWAYS
BE ON
YOUR
SIDE.

KAY.

LET ME
USE IT
TO LOOK
INTO
YOUR
MIND.

YOUR
ANSWER
IS IN
THERE.

ARE YOU
NEAR A
MIRROR?
GO SIT IN
FRONT
OF IT.

ALL
RIGHT.





DID YOU
DESERVE
TO EXIST
AT ALL?

YOU
DIDN'T,
DID
YOU?

JUST
DISAP-
PEAR.

...AND
ACCEPTED
ALL THEIR
OPINIONS.

YOU
INGRATI-
ATED
YOURSELF
WITH
PEOPLE
...

YOU
NEVER
TOOK
CARE OF
ANYONE.

YOU WERE
ALWAYS
INSINCERE
AND IRRE-
SPONSIBLE.

YOU
NEVER
UNDER-
STOOD
WHAT
MATTERED.

YOU
WERE
ALWAYS
EMPTY.

IT
MEANS
THEY'VE
EATEN
YOU
ALIVE.

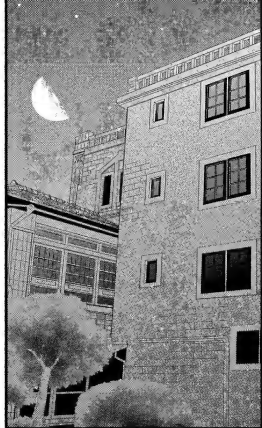
AH...

BUT
DOES
THAT
REALLY
MATTER?

THEY'RE
COMING
FROM
INSIDE
YOU.

IT'S
TOO
LATE
FOR
YOU.

WHAT
...?



I'LL
TAKE
CARE OF
THINGS
NOW...

...SO YOU
CAN AT
LEAST
DISAPPEAR
PRETTY.

DON'T
WORRY,
KAORI.

A good princess wouldn't kick a dog when it's down.

MAYBE I WAS TOO HARD ON KAORI.

HMM ...

I SHOULD GET TO BED. I WANT TO BE RESTED FOR TOMORROW.

I HOPE KAORI LEARNS SOMETHING.

WELL, WE'LL PROBABLY TALK IT ALL OUT TOMORROW.

* SITUATION'S MEETING (GAL'S) MEETING TODAY!
If you forgive her, she'll sleep, and won't hate.

We should stay away for today or leave!

she's always the same!

WELL,
WE'LL
PROBABLY
TALK IT
ALL OUT
TOMORROW.

STRATEGY MEETING (EARLIER TODAY)
If you survive her riffs today, she won't leave.

If you forget
her rights
away, she
won't leave.

We should stay angry for today, at least!



THIS IS
KAORI
TACHIBANA.

I'M
SORRY,
FLIMI.

PLEASE
LEAVE A
MESSAGE
AT THE
TONE.

A close-up of a telephone keypad. A speech bubble originates from the top left, containing the text "WHO'S CALLING AT THIS HOUR?" and "Don't scare me!!!". The keypad itself has large, stylized numbers. A white rectangular label with the text "UNKNOWN CALLER" is placed over the right side of the keypad.

A house rule ->

UN-KNOWN... MAYBE A PRANK CALL? SHOULD I IGNORE IT?

WE ARE UNABLE TO COME TO THE PHONE.

N G

WIN-
KNOWN.
MAYBE,
PRANK
CALL?

R... R... R...

OH!

TWITCH

OH!



DON'T
TELL MY
PARENTS
OR
ANYONE
ELSE.

I'M
GOING
AWAY, SO
PLEASE
FORGIVE
ME.

I JUST
WANTED TO
APOLOGIZE
BEFORE
I GO.

I'M
SORRY...

I'M
SORRY I
SAID YOU
WERE
CURSED.

SO I'M
GOING TO
DISAPPEAR
BEFORE I
MAKE
ANYONE
ELSE HATE
ME.

KAORI!

I HATE
MYSELF.

HELLO?
KAORI?!

YOU
WERE
RIGHT,
FUMI.

I'M SO
AWFUL.
THE
WORST
KIND OF
PERSON.

WHAT'S
WRONG?!
ANSWER
ME!

KAORI
?!

I UNDER-
STAND WHY
YOU ALL
GAVE UP
ON ME.







FUMI!!

TWITCH

KAORI-

I'VE
GOT TO
FIND
HER!!



I HEARD
THE CALL.
I UNDER-
STAND
WHAT'S
HAPPENED.

I KNOW
YOUR
FRIEND'S
IN
TROUBLE.



RUNNING
OUT WITH JUST
WHATEVER
YOU'RE
WEARING ISN'T
THE WAY TO
HANDLE IT. YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO DO THIS
ALONE.

THAT'S
THE FIRST
STEP AT
TIMES LIKE
THIS. CAN
YOU DO
THAT?

SO PULL
YOURSELF
TOGETHER.



IT'S SO NONE OF US HAVE TO DEAL WITH THESE THINGS ALONE.

WHY DO YOU THINK WE ALL LIVE TOGETHER?



...
SORRY...

...
RIGHT...

PLEASE
HELP...



DON'T IMAGINE THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO.

...
RIGHT.

WE'RE GOING HOME TO GET READY FOR THIS.

DON'T WORRY. KOICHI'S BEEN MAKING CALLS.

OKAY.

OF COURSE. FIRST, CALM DOWN.



WHAT'S
WITH
THAT
GUY?

HOW'D HE
GET THE
QUEEN
TO EAT
OUT
OF HIS
HAND?

UGH,
I HATE
HIM...





SWEEP 14

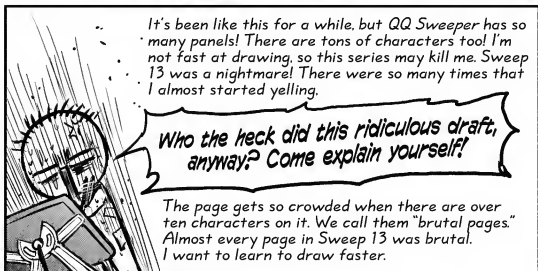




HEY,
KOICHI.

NISHIOKA
AND I ARE
AT THAT
CONVENIENCE
STORE.

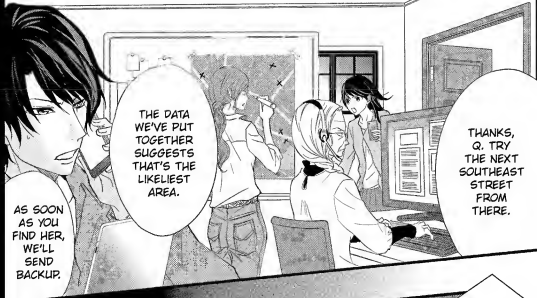
WE
HAVEN'T
SEEN
KAORI
AROUND
HERE.



It's been like this for a while, but QQ Sweeper has so many panels! There are tons of characters too! I'm not fast at drawing, so this series may kill me. Sweep 13 was a nightmare! There were so many times that I almost started yelling.

Who the heck did this ridiculous draft, anyway? Come explain yourself!

The page gets so crowded when there are over ten characters on it. We call them "brutal pages." Almost every page in Sweep 13 was brutal. I want to learn to draw faster.



AS SOON
AS YOU
FIND HER,
WE'LL
SEND
BACKUP.

THE DATA
WE'VE PUT
TOGETHER
SUGGESTS
THAT'S THE
LIKELIEST
AREA.

THANKS,
Q. TRY
THE NEXT
SOUTHEAST
STREET
FROM
THERE.



She isn't
in there!

Kyu-
taro!

THANK THE
OTHER
SWEEPERS
AND
VOLUNTEERS
FOR ME.

GOT IT.

WE'RE
COUNTING
ON YOU.

KEEP A
CLOSE
EYE ON
FUMI,
WILL
YOU?

WE HAVE AN
EMERGENCY.



NISHIOKA?

LET'S GO,
NISHIOKA.

WE'RE
SEARCHING
FOR HER
RIGHT
NOW.

BASED ON
WHAT SHE
SAID, SHE'S
EITHER
LEAVING
TOWN OR AT
RISK FOR
SUICIDE.

NISHIOKA'S
FRIEND
KAORI
TACHIBANA
...

...LEFT HER
A MESSAGE
AND THEN
DISAP-
PEARED.





HE SAW
HER
VULNERA-
BILITY AND
TARGETED
HER.

...
PROBABLY
HAS TO DO
WITH THAT
BUG
HANDLER...

...ATARU
SHIKATA.

WE
BELIEVE
SHE'S
INFESTED
AND
IS NOW
BEING
MANIPU-
LATED.



BUT
THE
THING
IS...

...KAORI'S
DISAPPEAR-
ANCE...



AND...

...SHE
THINKS
THIS IS
ALL HER
FAULT.

...NISHIOKA
HASN'T
OUTRIGHT
SAID SO,
BUT...



EVEN
IF SHE
STANDS
COMPLETELY
FIRM...

...DEEP IN
THAT GENTLE
HEART OF
HERS, SHE
BELIEVES IT.



...SHE
WAS
TOLD
FOR SO
LONG...

BUT EVEN IF
SHE LOGICALLY
UNDERSTANDS
THIS...

...THAT ALL
THESE
AWFUL
THINGS
HAPPENED
BECAUSE
OF HER.



THAT CAN'T
BE. SHE
DOESN'T
HAVE
ANY
CURSE
POWERS.

IN FACT,
SHE'S
THE ONE
WHO GOT
DRAGGED
INTO
THIS.

IF HER FRIEND
DIES BECAUSE
OF HER...

IS THAT
YOUR
GOAL...

...THEN...

...BUG
HANDLER?

THE BLAME
AND THE
BULLYING...

...WERE
JUST THE
OPENING
MOVES.

...FUMI'S
MIND
WILL...

PLEASE DON'T LOOK
CURSED
UNFAIR DEATH



DON'T
DO IT,
ALL
RIGHT?

It's
still
not a
good
idea.

THERE'S NO
TRAFFIC, SO
I THOUGHT
IT'D BE
OKAY.

It's not
dark out
yet.

IT'S
DANGER-
OUS WHEN
YOU RUSH
AND DON'T
REALLY
LOOK.

MINIMOUS



I KNOW
THIS IS
HARD...

I'LL
PROTECT
YOU.



...BUT
YOU HAVE
TO STAY
CALM AND
STRONG.

SHE...

DON'T
WORRY.
I'M WITH
YOU.

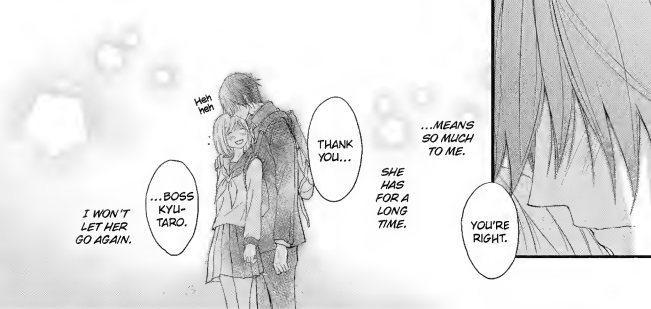
THERE'S
NO WAY...

...I'LL
EVER
LET THAT
HAPPEN.



KYLITARO
?

THE
LIGHT'S
RED. WATCH
IT.



I WON'T
LET HER
GO AGAIN.

...BOSS
KYU-
TARO.

Heh
heh

THANK
YOU...

SHE
HAS
FOR A
LONG
TIME.

...MEANS
SO MUCH
TO ME.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.



OKAY,
LET'S
GO. BE
ALERT.

IT'S
THIS
STREET,
RIGHT?

WE GO
STRAI-



...OVER THERE!

SHE'S ...

THERE!

HUH?



NISHIOKA!
WAIT!



LIKE SHE'S GONNA LISTEN TO THAT RIGHT NOW.

KOICHI!

WE'VE SPOTTED KAORI!

SHE'S A BLOCK OVER-ON THE ROOF OF A SEVEN-STORY BUILDING!

GOT IT!

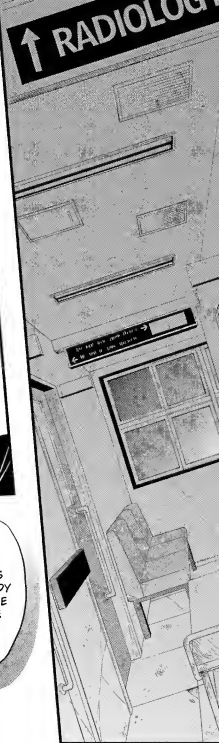
THAT'S A HOSPITAL THAT CLOSED RECENTLY.



SHE'S ALREADY ON THE ROOF.

YOU'RE NOT WANTED HERE...

...
SWEEPER.





KAORI
TACHIBANA
IS BEYOND
YOUR
HELP.

TH-
THMP
HER
BODY WAS
INVADED
ALL AT
ONCE—
A VIOLENT
AND FATAL
INFESTA-
TION.

THE BUG
HANDLER...



SO STAY
OUT OF
IT, WILL
YOU?



TH-
THMP
AT
LEAST
THAT
WASTE
OF SKIN
WILL BE
OF SOME
USE.

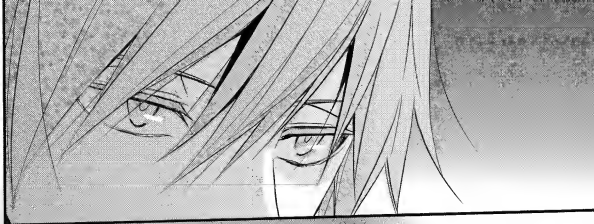


TH-
THMP
PRETTY
SOON
FUMI'LL
WATCH
HER...

...GO
SPLAT.

Huh...





YOU
HEAR ME,
BUT
YOU'RE
NOT
REACTING
...

NOT A
TRACE OF
EMOTIONAL
RESPONSE.

ICHI.
ICHI.

YOU
THINK
YOU
LOOK
GOOD?

WHAT I'M
GETTING
FROM THIS
IS THAT BUG
HANDLERS
HAVE LOUSY
FASHION
SENSE.

SO YOU
HAVE
DEFENSIVE
TRAINING
AGAINST
MIND
CONTROL?

NOT BAD...
FOR A
SWEEPER.

I SEE.



THOUGHT
SO.

THE
MAIN
EVENT'S
ABOUT
TO
START.

EVERY-
THING
THAT'S
HAPPENED
SO FAR
HAS JUST
BEEN A
PRELUDE.

A KEY
RITUAL IS
ABOUT TO
BEGIN UP
THERE.

IT'LL
CRUSH
FUMI'S
MIND
DOWN TO
ITS CORE.

ALL THAT
MATTERS
IS THAT
YOU'RE AN
OBSTACLE.

WELL,
WHAT-
EVER.

HE
SURE
TALKS
A LOT.



...I'M NOT
LETTING
YOU BY.

WHUP

AS I
JUST
SAID...

TMP

...BUT
GET
OUT
OF MY
WAY.

MUMBLE
TO YOUR-
SELF
ALL YOU
WANT...



STOP
BEING SO
FAMILIAR
WITH HER.

YOU'RE AN
EYESORE.



SHE'S
GOING TO
BE THE
QUEEN
SOON.

"THE
QUEEN"...?

TH-
THMP



YOU'RE A
SWEEPER,
BUT YOU
HAD NO
IDEA.

HA HA...
THAT'S
HILARIOUS.

HA! I SEE
I WAS
RIGHT.
YOU'RE
SUR-
PRISED.



NOW
...

...I'LL
GO
COLLECT
MY
SWEET
FUMI.

YOU
JUST
STAY
HERE-

BZZZT



BUT I'VE
ALWAYS
KNOWN.
I'VE
BEEN
WAITING.

I'M
GOING
TO
HAVE
HER.

I'LL
MAKE
HER
QUEEN.



TH-
THMP

YOU'RE
NOT
QUALIFIED
TO HAVE
ANYTHING
TO DO
WITH
HER.

YOU
HAVE NO
CLUE HOW
SPECIAL
SHE IS.



OVER
TEN
YEARS.

AND
...





...THOSE
WERE
TEN
LONG
YEARS!

AND I'VE
LOVED
HER ALL
THAT
TIME!

SO I'LL
SAY IT
AGAIN—
DON'T YOU
UNDERESTIMATE
ME! YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO'S AN
OBSTACLE.



I'LL
NEVER
LET YOU
HAVE
HER!



SHUT UP,
MORON.
JUST SIT
THERE
AND EAT
YOUR
PRECIOUS
BUGS!

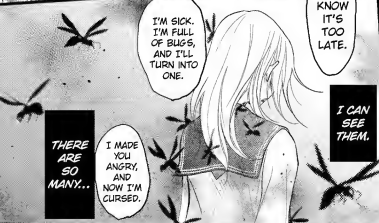
WAIT,
YOU...!
SWEEPER!

THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD



COME
HERE!
LET'S GO
HOME
TOGETHER.

KAORI!
STOP!
YOU'RE
TOO
CLOSE
TO THE
LEDGE!



I'M SICK.
I'M FULL
OF BUGS,
AND I'LL
TURN INTO
ONE.

I
KNOW
IT'S
TOO
LATE.

I CAN
SEE
THEM.

THERE
ARE
SO
MANY...

I MADE
YOU
ANGRY,
AND
NOW I'M
CURSED.



I'M
HERE
TO
SAVE
YOU.

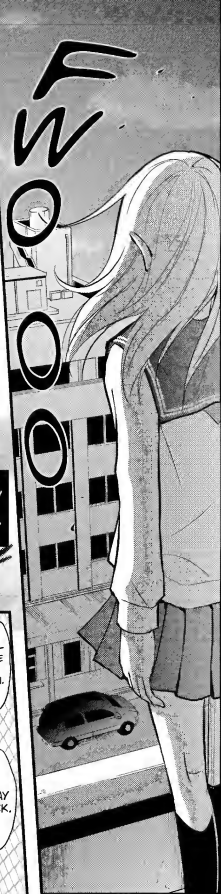
YOU'RE
A DEAR
FRIEND-!

THIS
ISN'T
WORKING
AT ALL.

NOT A
CHANCE!

FOR-
GIVE
ME, FUMI.

STAY
BACK.













TOO
BAD.

THAT
CAN'T
HOLD
ME.

DID YOU
FEEL SAFE
BECAUSE
YOU
LOCKED
THE DOOR
TO THE
ROOF?



KYU-
TARO!

KOFE...



WHAT
ARE
YOU
PLAN-
NING?

WHY
ARE YOU
DOING
SOME-
THING
SO
AWFUL?



HA!
WHY?

DON'T
YOU
KNOW?

NOW,
FUMI...



DON'T
LOOK AT
ME LIKE
THAT.

LET'S BE
FRIENDS...
FOR
KAORI'S
SAKE.



I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT
...

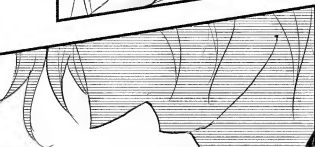
PLEASE...
SAVE
KAORI!

YOU
WANT
THAT?



THEN
LICK
MY...

...
FINGER.



EVERY
BIT OF
IT IS
FOR
YOU.

THE
"CURSED
GIRL" WILL
FINALLY
TRANSFORM
INTO HER
REAL,
GLORIOUS
SELF...

...AND TAKE
REVENGE ON
THIS WORLD
FULL OF
GARBAGE.

WHO
NEEDS THIS
HORRIBLE
WORLD-

FUMI
!!



OH...



WHAT I
WANTED
NEVER
MATTERED.



KAORI.

BE A
GOOD
GIRL AND
JUMP
NOW.

YES. I
CAN FIGHT
BACK...

...AND THINK
ABOUT MY REAL
FEELINGS.

MY
DEEPEST,
TRUEST
EMOTIONS.

DEEPER...



NO.

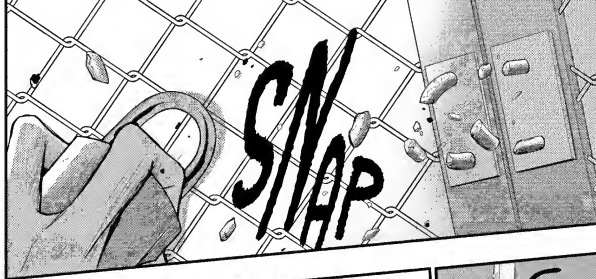
I CAN
STILL...



STAY
WHERE
YOU
ARE.









I'M
GOING
TO SAVE
YOU. I
PROMISE.

SO
COME TO
ME.







HEY! NISHIOKA!

Her eyes rolled back again.



THE QUEEN...



THAT
WAS THE
QUEEN'S
POWER.

JUST A
GLIMPSE
OF IT.



HEH HEH...
I MESSED
UP. I
WAS SO
CLOSE...

I ALMOST
HAD HER.
I COULD
FEEL IT.

A SIDE
OF HER
I DIDN'T
WANT TO
SEE, OF
COURSE.



AND
WHY
WOULD
I DO
THAT,
IDIOT?

NEXT
TIME I'LL
HAVE
HER
THOUGH.

GUESS
I'M
OUT OF
TIME.

HEY!
GET
BACK
HERE!

WEEE-OOO
WEEEE-OOOO

TURU



Koichi...

!

WEEE-OOO
WEEEE-OOOO



YOU'LL
NEVER BE
ABLE TO
CONTROL
HER.

I PITY
YOU FOR
FALLING
IN LOVE
WITH THE
QUEEN.



02260
xmm2000

0-226
00260



"KYUTARO..."



"I WANT TO
HOLD IT
FOREVER.

"I DON'T
WANT
TO LET
GO."

"YOUR
HAND'S
SO WARM,
KYUTARO.

FLYU...

I'LL NEVER
LET YOU GO
AGAIN.

NO MATTER
HOW MANY
SECRETS ARE
LOCKED AWAY
INSIDE YOU.





SWEEP 15



WHOSE
VOICE IS
THAT?

B
L
I
P

KAORI
...!

OH,
KAORI...

PLEASE
HANG
ON.

NOTHING
SOUNDS
CLEAR...

CONSCIOUS-
NESS LEVEL
AT 300...
HER BRAIN
WAVES...

HER BLOOD
PRESSURE'S
DROPPING
RAPIDLY.

GIVE HER
A CARDIO-
TONIC.

Oh, dear... I drew a stun gun again. (In Sweep 14.)

I put one in *Dengeki Daisy* too.
I guess they seem really convenient
to me or something. I wonder
where you get one?

Ha
ha!

Bet it's an
underdog
kind of
character.

This is Akira, a
character in *Dengeki
Daisy*. He lives with
Ms. Onizuka now.

Hmph! A
stun gun? Seriously?
Who uses
those?

BUT...

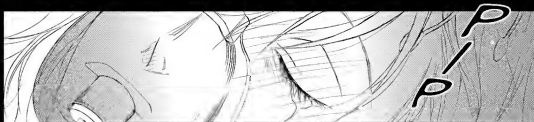
WILL I
DISAPPEAR?

AM...AM
I DYING?

IT'S SO
DARK AND
COLD...

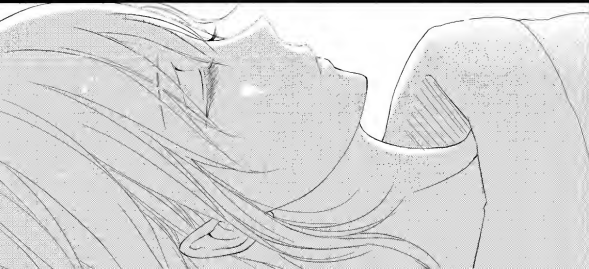
"SO
COME
TO
ME."

"I'M
GOING
TO SAVE
YOU. I
PROMISE."



TH-
THMP

FLIMI...





THAT'S
WHAT
THE BUG
HANDLER
SAID.

"SHE'S
GOING TO
BE THE
QUEEN
SOON."

...AND?

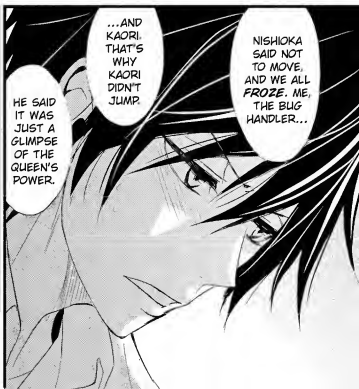


Y-YOU
KNOW
ABOUT
IT?

SO
WHAT'S
A
QUEEN?

SO
THAT'S
IT?
WHAT A
MESS...

I NEVER
THOUGHT
THEY'D
CREATE A
QUEEN.



...AND
KAORI.
THAT'S
WHY
KAORI
DIDN'T
JUMP.

HE SAID
IT WAS
JUST A
GLIMPSE
OF THE
QUEEN'S
POWER.

NISHIOKA
SAID NOT
TO MOVE,
AND WE ALL
FROZE. ME,
THE BUG
HANDLER...



...A QUEEN
APPEARS
VERY, VERY
RARELY.



IN OUR
HISTORY...

BUT IN
OTHER ERAS,
SHE WAS A
TREMENDOUS
HEALING
FORCE...

...AND
PRAISED
AS A
HERO.

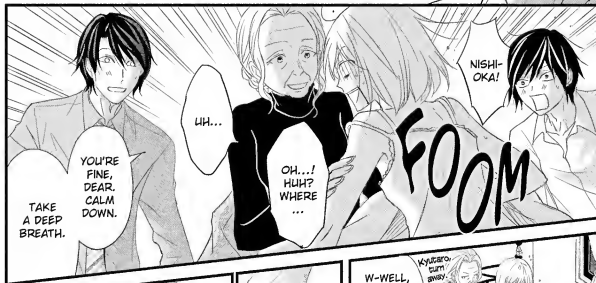
AT TIMES,
SHE CAUSED
A MASSIVE
INFESTATION
ON THE
INSIDE...

...SPREADING
PLAGUE LIKE
SOME SORT
OF DEMON.

SHE CAN
BE GOOD
OR EVIL.

SHE
HAS THE
POWER TO
CONTROL
...

...NEARLY
EVERYONE'S
MIND, NO
MATTER
WHO THEY
ARE.





AND IT WAS FAINT, BUT I COULD HEAR HER VOICE IN MY SLEEP.

SHE WAS CALLING ME.

I PROMISED I'D SAVE HER.

I MADE A PROMISE TO KAORI.

I DO REMEMBER THAT.



HOW MANY TIMES DO WE HAVE TO TELL YOU NOT TO TAKE IT LIGHTLY?

NO, FUMI! YOU'VE USED TOO MUCH ENERGY. YOU'D KILL YOURSELF!

Keep your clothes on, young lady!

WE HAVE TO HURRY AND GET TO THE INSIDE-



BUT FUMI-

WE HAVE TO GET GOING.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE.

I FELT IT.

THAT'S WHY I TOLD HER I'D SAVE HER.

AND... I HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT...

...IT MAY BE TOO LATE TO SAVE KAORI.

THE BUGS ARE IN THE VERY CORE OF HER MIND. EVEN IF WE GO IN, IT'S PROBABLY TOO LATE.





I KNOW,
GRANNY.

I'M
OKAY.

FOR
NOW,
PLEASE
CONCEN-
TRATE ON
SUPPORT-
ING FUMI.



I PROMISE
TO ANSWER
ALL YOUR
QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE
QUEEN
LATER.

I DARE-
SAY
YOU'RE
CONFUSED
TOO.
I'M SO
SORRY.



IT'S VERY
IMPORTANT.

SO LISTEN
CAREFULLY.

FUMI IS...



THERE'S
SOME-
THING
ABOUT
FUMI...

...THAT
I WANT
YOU TO
REMEMBER.



ONE
MORE
THING,
KYU-
TARO.



TH-THMP

SHE'S IN
NO SHAPE
TO RING A
BELL, SO
WE'LL HAVE
TO FOLLOW
HER VOICE.



NO, I
DON'T
HEAR
ANYTHING.

TH-THMP

KYUTARO,
CAN YOU
HEAR
HER?



TH-THMP

IT SEEMS
YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONE WHO
CAN, FUMI.

WHERE
IS
KAORI'S
VOICE
COMING
FROM?

STAY
FOCUSED,
ALL
RIGHT?



TH-THMP

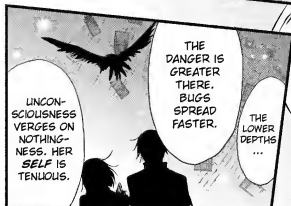
FUMI...

TH-THMP



THAT TELLS US...

FROM WAY, WAY DOWN...







ONE.



F L A P

I'M
HERE TO
PROTECT
YOU
TOO.

JUST
SO.

NONE
OF US
WILL
FORGET.
LET'S
GO.



TWO.



OKAY.

FUMI, CON-
CENTRATE
ON KAORI
WITH ALL
YOUR
STRENGTH.

HARDER
THAN
THAT. IN
HERE, OUR
THOUGHTS
ARE OUR
GREATEST
POWER.



CLOSE
YOUR
EYES.
EXHALE.

I'LL
COUNT
TO
THREE.

WHEN YOU
OPEN YOUR
EYES,
WE'LL BE
AT THE
DOOR TO
KAORI'S
MIND VAULT.



MY CON-
SCIOUSNESS
PROTECTS
YOU, AND
YOURS
PROTECTS
ME.

AND I
KNOW
YOU'RE
HERE
TOO.

THAT'S WHY
WE'RE SAFE.
WE CAN'T BE
SWALLOWED
UP.



THREE...



...MI...



EXCELLENT.
WE'VE
ARRIVED.



THIS
SEEMS TO
BE THE
CORRECT
DOOR.



FUMI...





SOS
KAK





DON'T GET
Distracted.
THIS IS
KYUTARO'S
ROLE.

KYU-
TARO-!

YOU
HAVE
YOUR
OWN
JOB
TO DO.

CONCEN-
TRATE.
DON'T
LET THE
MALICE
SWAY
YOU.

BUT
I'M
NOT
WORTH-

GET IT
TOGETHER,
FUMI!!

IF
YOU'RE
OKAY,
THEN
I AM
TOO.

I TOLD
YOU
THAT,
REMEM-
BER?



WHO ARE
YOU?
HOW CAN
YOU NOT
SEE IT?

DIE...

SICKENING.

JUST
DISAP-
PEAR.

IT'S...
FILTHY
BLACK
WATER...

...ROLLING
WITH EVIL
WHISPERS
AND
BUGS.

YOU'RE
NOTHING
BUT
EMPTI-
NESS.

YOUR
VERY
EXIS-
TENCE
IS
ANNOY-
ING.

WE
DON'T
NEED
YOU.

YOU'RE
TO BLAME
FOR
EVERY-
THING
THAT'S
WRONG
WITH THIS
WRETCHED
WORLD.

DIE,
CURSED
GIRL.





I BELIEVE
IN YOU.



THAT'S
RIGHT.



RIGHT.

THERE
YOU GO!
YOU'RE
STRONG.

IF YOU
FOCUS
YOUR MIND,
YOU WON'T
ATTRACT
EVIL
INTENTIONS.

HE'S
INCREDIBLE.

I HAVE
TO TRY TO
COMMUNICATE
THE SAME
WAY.

JUST
LIKE
THAT...

KAORI
...!



YOU'RE
VERY
GOOD AT
DOING
THAT.

NOW...

KAORI
...



THE
CORE OF
KAORI'S
MIND...

...IS
LIKELY
IN THE
MUCK.

SHE'S
CALLING
TO YOU.

ANSWER
HER WITH
THOUGHTS
FROM
YOUR
HEART.



NO, I'M
IMAGINING
IT.

IS THAT..
FUMI...?



EVEN IF I
ACTED LIKE
A COWARD...

...OR
PRETENDED
I DIDN'T
HEAR IT
WHEN THEY...



...CALLED
ME, I
NAMES
BEHIND
MY BACK.

I WAS SO
TERRIFIED
OF BEING
ALONE.



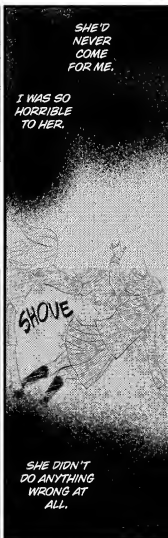
I NEEDED TO
BELONG WITH
A GROUP,
EVEN IF I
HAD TO RUIN
SOMEONE TO
DO IT.

WHY DO I
ALWAYS...



SHE'D
NEVER
COME
FOR ME.

I WAS SO
HORRIBLE
TO HER.



SHOVE

SHE DIDN'T
DO ANYTHING
WRONG AT
ALL.



...FOLLOW
STRONGER
PEOPLE'S
LEAD SO
EASILY?

IT'S TOO
STRONG
FOR ME TO
DISPERSE.

I WAS
ALWAYS
TRYING
TO FIT IN
PERFECTLY
INSTEAD OF
THINKING
FOR MYSELF.

I SEE
YOUR FORM
WHEN YOU
ARE



"DID YOU
DESERVE
TO EXIST
AT ALL?"

"BUT, DOES
THAT REALLY
MATTER? YOU
WERE ALWAYS
EMPTY."



...MORE
THAN
ANYONE
ELSE
DID.

I KNOW
HE WAS
RIGHT.

I HATED
MYSELF...



KAORI.



I DON'T
CARE WHAT
HAPPENS
TO ME
ANYMORE.

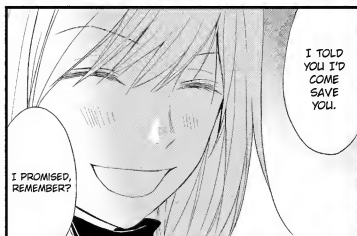
I DON'T
KNOW.
I LOST
MY REAL
SELF...

...OR
MAYBE
IT NEVER
EXISTED
ANYWAY.



I JUST KEPT
TELLING
MYSELF IT
WASN'T THE
REAL ME.

BUT THEN
WHO WAS
I REALLY?





SO ANNOY-
ING.

KILL
HER.

WHAT
AN AWFUL
PEST.

COME
OUT
HERE.

KAORI,
PLEASE.



YOU'LL
NEVER
GET
OUT.

SHE'S
LYING,
KAORI.

YOU'RE
EMPTY.
THERE'S
NOTHING
TO
SAVE.



I JUST
THINK
WHAT
PEOPLE
TELL
ME TO.

I DON'T
EVEN
HAVE
MY OWN
OPINIONS.



I'M A
HELPLESS
COWARD.

KAORI
...

THERE'S
NO
POINT
IN ME
LIVING.



NO,
YOU'RE
NOT!
YOU'RE
NOT LIKE
ME.

DON'T
TRY TO
MAKE
ME FEEL
BETTER.

WELL...

I'M LIKE
THAT
TOO,
KAORI.



IT'S NO
USE,
FUMI.
GO
BACK.

I'M
USELESS.
JUST
LEAVE ME
HERE.

I'M
EMPTY
INSIDE.
THE
BUGS
ATE
ME UP.



I'M A
COWARD
WHO PUTS
MYSELF
FIRST.



WE
ARE
THE
SAME.



BUT
WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
THAT,
HUH?

FUMI
...

EVEN IF
IT'S NOT
"REAL,"
THE
IMPORTANT
THING IS
HAVING
SOMETHING
THAT
MATTERS
TO YOU.

WHY
...?



ALL I'VE
GOT IS MY
GOAL OF
FINDING MY
"PRINCE
CHARMING"
...

...BUT
EVEN WITH
ONLY THAT,
I'VE MADE
IT THIS
FAR!

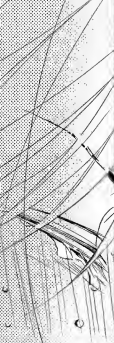
THERE'S
NOTHING
I CAN SAY
THAT'S
TRUE.



I DON'T
REMEMBER
MY PAST.
I DON'T
KNOW
WHERE I
CAME FROM,
OR WHY
EVERYONE
SAYS I'M
CURSED.

F-
FUMI
....

PEOPLE ASK
WHO I AM
SOMETIMES,
BUT NO ONE
WANTS TO
KNOW THAT
MORE THAN
I DO!



I WANT...

...TO
THANK
YOU,
FLUMI.



You
have
no
dreams.

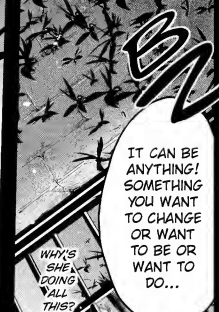
Not-
sensed!
it's
too
late.

BUT...
I DON'T
HAVE....

...ANY-
THING...

OF
COURSE
YOU DO!

DIG
DOWN
DEEP
INTO
YOURSELF
AND
FIND IT!

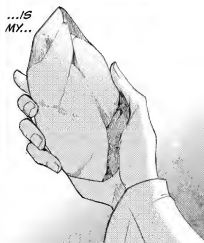


IT CAN BE
ANYTHING!
SOMETHING
YOU WANT
TO CHANGE
OR WANT
TO BE OR
WANT TO
DO...

WHY'S
SHE
DOING
ALL
THIS?

GRAB
HOLD OF
WHATEVER
IT IS AND
START
DEFINING
YOURSELF!

YOU'RE
NOT EMPTY,
KAORI. THIS
IS ONLY THE
BEGINNING.





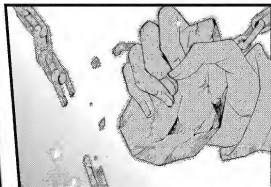
...MY
REAL...

FLUMI!



IT'S NOT
STUPID!

THIS
IS...









YOU WERE
WONDERFUL,
KAORI.

JUST
LEAVE
THE
REST...

...TO
ME.



BLP





NO,
THAT'S
NOT IT.



WHEN
I SEE
HER...



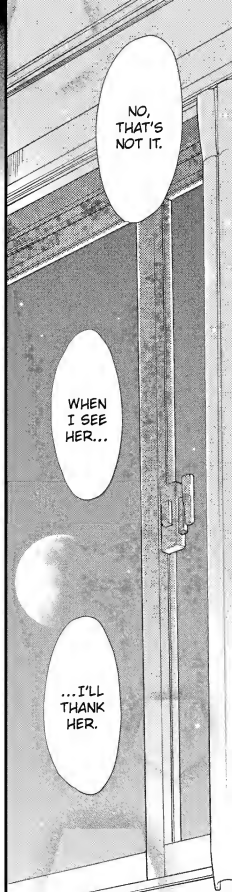
ARE
YOU
AWAKE?



HUH
...?

MMM
...

...I'LL
THANK
HER.





HOW'RE
YOU
FEELING?

YOU
MADE IT
BACK.
NICE
WORK.



BUT YOU
DID A
GREAT
JOB.

YEAH, I
BET YOU
ARE. I'M
PRETTY
WIPED
TOO.

TIRED...
OR MAYBE
SLEEPY...

"LISTEN
CAREFULLY,
KYUTARO.



IT WAS
BECAUSE
YOU
WERE
THERE...

GO
BACK
TO
SLEEP.
REST.

HEH
...

I DID,
HUH?

"...OR IF
SHE HAS
SPECIAL
POWERS
THAT
OTHERS
DON'T.

"EVEN IF
PEOPLE
SAY SHE'S
CURSED...

"FUMI IS
A NORMAL
GIRL.

"EVEN IF SHE'S
DESTINED TO
BECOME A
QUEEN.

"SHE'S AN
ORDINARY
GIRL.

"DON'T
EVER
FORGET
THAT.

"NO
MATTER
WHAT
HAPPENS
FROM
HERE ON
OUT..."



*THERE'S
NO KNIGHT
AT HER
SIDE.*

*ONLY A BOY
WHO'S VERY
GOOD AT
CLEANING.*

*BUT WILL
THIS GIRL...*

*...BECOME A
QUEEN?*



*WILL THE
FUTURE
QUEEN...*

*...BE
BLACK...
OR
WHITE?*

*THAT
STORY
LIES
BEHIND
THE
NEXT
DOOR.*

QQ SWEEPER © *THE END*

Note ①

In Sweep 14 or so of *QQ Sweeper*, you can see brief appearances by characters like the glasses-wearing Onizuka, the girl with the scallion-shaped head and the hacker who created an app. See more of them in *Dengeki Daisy!* (16 volumes)



Note ②

Just wanted to let you all know that I now have a Twitter account! (@motomikyosuke).

I'll tweet news about my manga and some stuff from my everyday life. I might also share some unpublished art, so please stop by sometimes!



AFTERWORD

Oh—hi! I know it's a little sudden, but we've reached the end of *QQ Sweeper*. Thank you for reading it!

Hmm... I can hear people going, "What? But that wasn't a real ending!" I'm sorry! I understand why you're annoyed!

Actually, the story's continuing under a new title, *Queen's Quality*. So it's going to look a little different, but the story just keeps on going.

I don't really understand the reasons for this unusual change, so I can't explain it, but I can tell you it was an unusual and big opportunity for me, so I couldn't turn it down. I'll work even harder from now on! And I hope you'll keep reading about what happens to Fumi and Kyutaro next!

最田キウスケ

Kyousuke Motomi



Send your
letters to:
♡

KYOUSUKE MOTOMI
C/O QQ SWEEPER EDITOR
VIZ MEDIA
P.O. BOX 77010
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107

Let's go to the next door.



"QUEEN'S QUALITY"



I bought myself a wool duster recently. It's great for dusting the furniture, and it's nice and fluffy. Touching it when I'm stressed gives me a sense of calm. It's becoming like a pet to me (since I'm not allowed to have an actual animal).

—Kyouzuke Motomi

Author Bio

Born on August 1, Kyouzuke Motomi debuted in *Deluxe Betsucomi* with *Hetakuso Kyupiddo* (No Good Cupid) in 2002. She is the creator of *Dengeki Daisy* and *Beast Master*, both available in North America from Viz Media. Motomi enjoys sleeping, tea ceremonies and reading Haruki Murakami.

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STORY AND ART BY
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